WORLD SOCCER

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The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

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World SOCCER

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COMMENT

THE LEAST said about 1975 the better. It was not a vintage year by any means and one can only hope that things improve in the next twelve months. British football had a particularly bad time, though Wales deserve every praise for getting through to the quarter finals of the European Championship.

There is not one outstanding team in the world today, either at club or international level. And that is sad. Good teams set standards which others attempt to follow but where is the inspiration of the 1953 Hungarians or the great Real Madrid sides of the 60's?

Less than two years ago Holland achieved great heights during the 1974 World Cup finals but, unfortunately, they have since faded from view and though West Germany continue to do well they, too, have gone downhill.

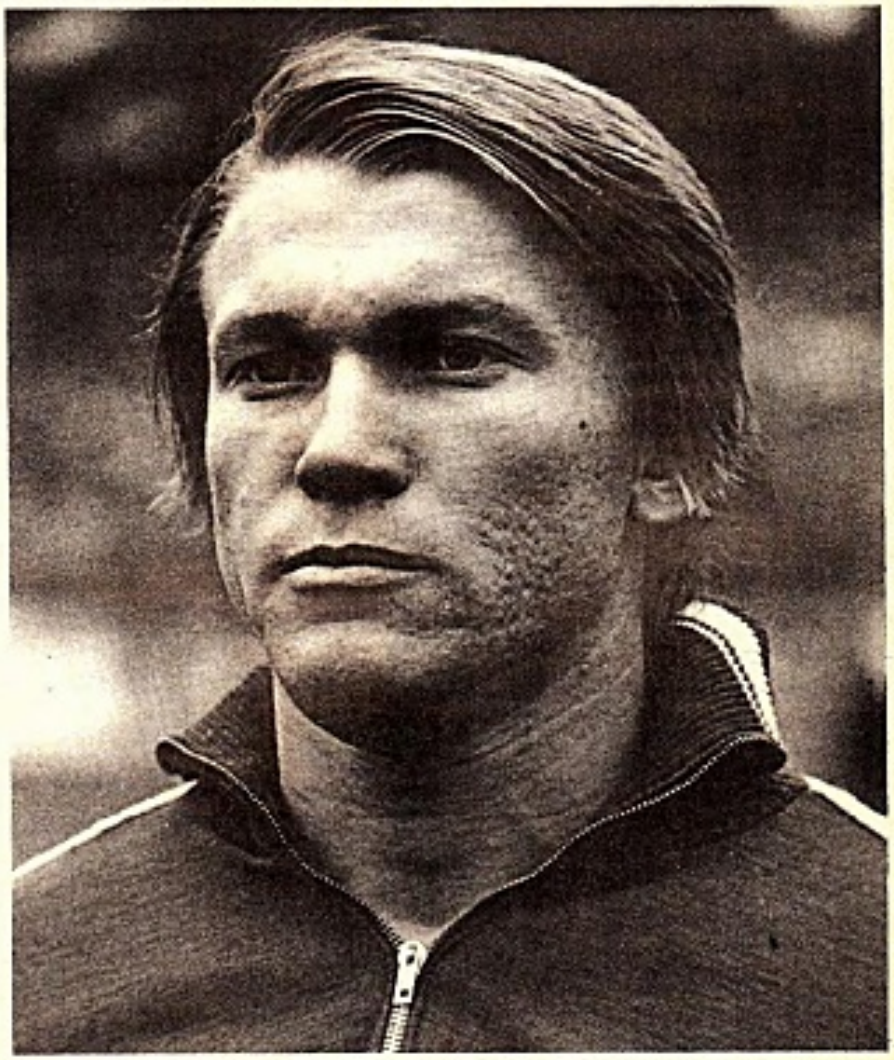
The European Cup was won by a Bayern Munich side which had a poor domestic season in the Bundesliga and since Gerd Muller drifted out through illness and injury Bayern have lost more of what little magic remained.

Many observers feel that Dynamo Kiev, the Cup Winners Cup holders, have the potential to become an outstanding side, with Oleg Blochin tipped to take over from Johan Cruyff as Europe's number one player. Others are more pessimistic and feel that Kiev look good simply because the overall standard is so poor.

It would be nice if England looked capable of producing an outstanding club side, but Derby County failed against Real Madrid and they are probably the best we have. England's international side has to recover from its inglorious exit from the European Championship.

We haven't even one world class player to shout about. One of the reasons fewer people watch football these days is the lack of quality players with crowd appeal. Even an overweight George Best can pull in a few thousand people. How many more can claim to do that?

WORLD SOCCER is now 12 years old. I sincerely hope that 13 is lucky for us . . . and the game of association football.



Oleg Blochin of Dynamo Kiev.

FRONT COVER PICTURE
Bobby Lennox of Celtic in action against Glasgow Rangers.

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League and FA solve differe

ERIC BATTY

ENGLAND'S DEFEAT away to Czechoslovakia (1-2) and 1-1 draw against Portugal (a moral defeat) was closely followed by the Czech's thumping of little Cyprus. Even the female population of England must have been forced to realise what that meant — England had been dumped out again.

Following so closely on England's failure to qualify for the last World Cup this must have come as a serious jolt to a lot of people for no one, even in their wildest nightmares, can imagine Czechoslovakia, Portugal and Cyprus as being formidable opposition. It wouldn't have been so bad if the Czechs had an outstanding team, but the fact that they haven't has to be faced.

That doesn't mean they couldn't have fielded a better side than the one that beat England in Bratislava. Practically every Czech will acknowledge that Ladislav Petras (unfit for the game) is their best striking forward of the moment and I will place on record that the most exciting midfield player I have seen in 1975 was another Czech — inside right Antonin Panenka, who is a dead ringer for Ganter Netzer at his best — and he was also unfit.

But whichever way one looks at it, the Bratislava result was a jolt — not least for Don Revie and in view of his handling of the England squad I am tempted to have second thoughts about his successes at Leeds. Was he the big man at Elland Road or was he a kind ofchairman of a committee of back room boys who let the press build him up as the pots began to arrive?

As an outsider it is always difficult to know who really was responsible — even at Government level one cannot always blame or credit the Prime Minister. Never having been on the inside at Leeds — and remembering the bone-crunching of their early years back in Division I, I never wanted to be — so I cannot do more than air the thought.

However, having made the point that the Czechs are no great shakes, it is my view that England should have qualified. I didn't go much on Revie choosing four men, who play as strikers for their clubs, in the vital game in Bratislava which I believe was a critical error. But I don't want to labour the point just now about team selection. Revie picked his teams, got one point from two away matches and mugged himself. Why go on?

Sidelight

Right now I'm far more interested in basic questions with lots of threads running through my mind. No least is the relationship between the Football Association and the Football League. Outside the British Isles the FA rules and the leagues do as they are told. Knowing the English FA's past record — and indeed what some of the foreign FA's can do — I'm not so sure that giving the FA carte blanche would be a good thing but the fact remains that the FA don't rule in England.

The League virtually tell the FA how many internationals they can play each season and that's it. And looking at it in retrospect — what a boob it was not to have a foreign tour at the end of last season? Experience in playing conditions abroad is one thing the present England players lack and if it may not have made all that difference, it certainly wouldn't have done any harm.

But there's an interesting sidelight on all this FA-FL business. Some months ago when the first date for the Cyprus-England game was put off, one of the national dailies came on to me to suggest who England could play at short notice. Checking on the international fixture lists I suggested Belgium and sure enough, despite having only a few days notice, the response from Brussells was encouraging. After a couple of hours to check with FA officials by phone — and, of course, team manager Raymond Goethals — the Belgians came back and said: "Yes, we would be delighted to play England," next Wednesday in Belgium.

International

It never got off the ground because at the FA the reaction was one of horror.

We don't have the League's approval for an extra game. We can't do it!

There's another point worth thinking about. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a summary of all the international matches England have played to date, part of the series I am currently doing. Of all England's 496 full international matches no less than 266 (more than half) have been against the home countries and the Republic of Ireland. Wales, Northern Ireland, Eire and even Scotland select so many players from English clubs, all bar Scotland often choosing players from Division III and IV teams or even Reserve players that I personally doubt if these matches have any real value in the true international sense. Excluding these leaves 230 games against truly foreign teams and though I don't have full details it's a fair bet that a high proportion of all these games were played at home in England. In recent years all at Wembley of course. It also leaves England one of the least experienced international teams in the world.

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e nces

As we have just seen with the Czechs who went down tamely to a 0-3 defeat at Wembley but came up with a vigourous fighting performance in Bratislava this makes an awful lot of difference. The fact is that the present England squad simply did not have enought experience playing in foreign conditions where everything from crowd support, size of the pitch, not to mention familiarity with it, and referee's decisions are all against you.

On referees, the vast majority of English players play to fight-ball rules every week where punching and kicking are too frequently excused. You might get booked for throwing a punch in a league game (but you might not) — but under FIFA rules you should get sent off for even attempting to strike an opponent.

There's another thought I cannot get out of my mind. Given the chance of an international friendly game in 1975 who, what and where do the FA go for? An away game in Switzerland to be sure but also a 100,000 capacity Wembley crowd worth around £¼ million to the FA . . . less Wembley's cut and general expenses. As it turned out that game they chose against West Germany looked a winner with the West Germans being World Cup holders. It brought a full house and an easy England win that perhaps could have helped breed over-confidence. Wouldn't it have been better from the players point of view to send them abroad somehwere?

Finally, my personal choice for England team manager would have been Ron Greenwood whose record speaks for itself. Under his guidance the England team would have a very different look. The English are not alone in this respect however. The French right now have a similar situation with Stefan Kovacs going back to Rumania. With Albert Batteux, around the same age as Greenwood and with a similar pedigree — Reims in their great days and coach to the 1958 World Cup team which took third place. France since then have qualified a couple of times but done nothing. Do the French throw themselves at Batteux and beg to be steered back to the straight and narrow? Of course they don't, they go for a younger man with a modern view, Michel Hidalgo.

Critical

The Dutch had a similar opportunity when Rinus Michels was unemployed at the start of this season. What he could do was proved in his years with Ajax, taking them from obscurity to the point where everyone wanted to play them and also envied them. On top of that he took over the Dutch squad only days before the 1974 World Cup final rounds stitarted — a squad whose players were on the point of refusing to play — and took them to the final. More than that they produced flashes of football that pleased me and delighted almost everyone else.

Did the KNVB leap in for the unemployed Michels? Sadly they didn't.

Finally, the Borussia Monchengladbach coach Hennes Weisweiler joined Barcelona last summer, having been made an offer he couldn't afford to refuse. But I wonder. Weisweiler was always very critical of Helmut Schon which makes him an ally of mine. Would Weisweiler have sauntered off to Spain if he had been offered the West German national team job?

In my book we could have had England, Holland, West Germany and France all heading in the right direction (from a football point of view) with hope for the future of international football. Instead we have a situation now where there is not one outstanding national team anywhere and the future looks very bleak indeed.

Some people might claim that Dynamo Kiev are outstanding but until they prove themselves, for example by beating England at Wembley (and not with a tight defensive, counter-attacking 1-0 either) I will retain my reservations about them. Meanwhile we are all lost, milling about and not knowing which direction to move in.

Next month I'll tell you how I would rebuild the England team . . . and of course get it to play real football.

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RODNEY MARSH writes

WHY I TURNED DOWN A DREAM!

HOW COULD anyone turn down an offer of £600 per week in today's economic recession? I am sure many of you quite rightly asked yourselves this question, following my last-minute refusal to sign for the crack Belgian club Anderlecht. Well, the answer to this one is by no means black or white.

You see, everything at Anderlecht impressed me: the stadium, the organisation, the facilities, the progressive approach of their live-wire board, and obviously the financial rewards I could have gained in Belgium would have been, to put it mildly, substantial. In fact everything about the club was all if not more than any professional footballer could ask for.

And, then from the playing side of things, Anderlecht have several players of true world-class ability, and it would certainly have been a pleasure playing alongside them. It should also be remebered that the many-times Belgian champions are respected wherever soccer is played.

Combat

Also, if I had signed on the dotted line in Brussels, I would have been virtually guaranteed of regular European combat in one of the three European tournaments, something I have always craved for ever since I began my career with Fulham.

So, you are probably saying, why, with all these wonderful opportunities open to me, didn't I put my name to the contract?

Well, without going into any details, all I can say is that the reasons for my eleventh hour change of heart were purely and simply personal.

Both my wife and myself were impressed with Brussels — it certainly is a truly magnificent city. And I must say that the Belgian life-style also appealed to me. I remain convinced we would all have been both relaxed and contented in Belgium, so the suggestion that I turned down the offer because my wife Jean was not happy at the prospect of residing there is pure nonsense.

I now know that I belong in English football, and even though I could have earned a great deal more money in Belgium than here, there is surely no place like home!

I can assure you that I am looking forward to returning to English league soccer with the same kind of enthusiasm as a soccer-crazy youngster just embarking on his professional career. And the prospect of spending the summer months in the United States will undoubtedly be an experience in itself. Soccer is booming there — and booming fast. All it needs now is an influx of top-class players from the British Isles to give it that final boost.

Business

But back to England for a moment: although I am now over thirty, I still feel that I have a great deal to give to the sport in this country. Anyway all I want to do — and do quickly is to start playing competitive soccer again, and forget all the past months of negotiations, business deals and the like.

Rodney Marsh

One thing I do know though is that now people realise how much money can be made by leading British footballers in Europe, don't be at all surprised if overtures aren't made to several of our foremost stars in the not too distant future. In other words the floodgates have opened!

In an interview with Gregory Tesser

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ITALY WILL BE FOR REVIE

Looking at soccer...

AND NOW, Italy and Finland. Having had to suffer England's performances this season in Basel, Bratislava and Lisbon, you will forgive me if I am rather less than optimistic about their qualification for the 1978 World Cup in Argentina; or whatever else it is ultimately played (I myself will be astonished to find it taking place in that chaotic and unhappy country).

When the World Cup draw was known, the less informed among us gave small shrieks of joy. England, we were to believe, had fallen into a relatively "easy" group. I seem to recall much the same being said when we were drawn in the last World Cup against Wales and Poland; not to mention when we were drawn in the Nations Cup with the Czechs, Portuguese and Cypriots.

What, in the name of all that is logical, could possibly be "easy" for as ill selected, untalented, strangely orientated an England team as Don Revie has provided for us over the past eighteen months? Let alone against Italy who, whatever their failings in attack, have a defence far stronger and more heavily populated than either the Czechs or the Portuguese.

As for the Finns, they are no longer the weak opponents that they were when last we played them in Helsinki just before the 1966 World Cup. The team that drew 0-0 last September in the Nations Cup in Rome deserved to beat Italy, had a couple of splendid strikers, and ran the game, despite the fact it suffered from the heat.

Obstinate

Nothing Revie has done so far convinces me that he will ever be the manager at international level that he was for Leeds. He has talked about building a team for 1978, of his disappointment at not finding more players, but this has been determined as much as anything else by his obstinate insistence on choosing players who were manifestly not good enough.

Did it really have to come to Malcolm Macdonald's ludicrously clumsy miss against the Portuguese in Lisbon before he realised the man never has been and never will be an international centre-forward? And how on earth could he persevere so long with as unilluminated a winger as Dave Thomas, who, apart from his first, happy foray against the Czechs at Wembly, has comprehensively proved he hasn't the wit to be an international forward?

Some of you may have heard the "confrontation" Revie and I had on the BBC Sports Report, in which he demanded with some heat what right I had to lay down the law about tactics. If my background was so negligible, I might justifiably have replied, then why was he debating with me at all? The truth is that Revie, like so many of our modern managers, knows so damn much about tactics that he is coming out the other side. I drew the analogy, on that programme, with judo; a judoka starts with a white belt, goes all the way through the various stages to

U.K. LAGS BEHIND

MENTION WAS made in the November issue of this well-read magazine, and perhaps it should be stated that Select Sport A/S of Denmark (who have a subsidiary company in the U.K.) are the largest manufacturers of footballs in Europe.

Many of the well-known clubs such as Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Ajax, Fejenoord, Barcelona etc., make up about 70% of the teams which use the "Select" ball on the continent.

It is a well-known fact that the United Kingdom is about fifteen years behind the times with footballs as far as design and balance is concerned, the clubs being very much behind their continental counterparts when choosing their footballs. So much is advertised and read about the strips used today, yet when it comes to footballs, the clubs just buy something which they think either looks good or has been used for years before. This is slowly changing, and even old-fashioned Britain is using more and more thirty-two balls. Most people are unaware that it is only Britain and South Africa which uses eighteen panel balls these days.

Now even greater problems exist in choosing footballs which should be right for the game (as suggested in the article by Ken Goldman) as the law has been changed regarding pressure. This company feels that the powers that be should have amended the law to state that when a synthetic ball is used, the pressure should be 9-10.5 lbs/sq.ins., and the leather ball to remain as before. We have already witnessed a game where this new pressure was used with a leather ball, and it can be likened to kicking a pudding up and down the field.

Synthetic

This company manufactures both leather and synthetic footballs, but, having said that, we would quickly add that we also have our own method balancing the ball, unique to this company, and this will overcome the problem of any swerve of dropping in flight, as is seen so much with the majority of balls used. Goalkeepers in particular, know the value of a ball which does not veer from its course when only a couple of yards away; as do the strikers who go up to a ball and find that it swerves at the last minute or drops quicker than expected — this is nearly always due to the ball itself — and we have overcome this problem. Our company chairman is Denmark's greatest goalkeeper, and any testing of new balls is always done by Internationals of world repute.

Peculiarly enough, the most interest in our balanced footballs comes from North of the Border — or is it peculiar — they seem to be more discerning, and have taken time and trouble to prove what we say is correct. More and more inquiries are being received from Scottish clubs for our balls, and, with many grounds of shale, our synthetic "Porvair" balls are really catching on — they last so long, and there is not coating to come off which does happen to so many coated-leather balls.

Finally, we would stress that more care should be taken of footballs, and clubs should look for a ball which has a built-in balance to avoid the problem of swerving and dropping suddenly of a ball, particularly now that this new amendment of the law is with us.

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NO PUSHOVER AND ENGLAND

BRIAN GLANVILLE

black belt, even to Seventh Dan, and symbolically ends with a white belt, again.

Revie has properly complained about the emphasis on pace and power in English League football; though it can hardly be said that he himself, especially in his earlier days with Leeds, did much to put the emphasis anywhere else. Yet in his selection of so many ungifted and physical players he has done nothing to encourage the ball artists, the unorthodox, to persist and ultimately thrive.

Little (injured this season, I know) was out after a game. Trevor Brooking had one bad match at home to Portugal and had to wait a year for another chance. The straightforward Gerry Francis was ludicrously made captain and thus guaranteed a place all season which he did not remotely deserve on past (or, as it would turn out, subsequent) form. Revie-ism at the moment seems considerably less likely to win us anything than Ramsey-ism which, until it fell into decay, did at least bring England the World Cup.

Criticism

The argument between Revie and Hardaker is one which leaves me stone cold. Revie was virtually making excuses before even England arrived in Portugal (and Hardaker might have added that if the team hadn't lost so unnecessarily in Bratislava it would have been a different ball game entirely). He *did*, as manager of Leeds United, incur criticism for his reluctance to release players for international matches and training, whatever the statistics he may flourish to prove the contrary.

On the other hand, it is absurd, as Revie says, that the Football League championship should grind on and on, whatever the tasks faced by the international team. Nowhere else, least of all in highly professionalised, far more moneyed, Italian football, is there such fetishism. As against this, I would say, as I have had cause to say before, that the European Nations Cup is a wholly unnecessary competition, without which the game did well enough till only some fifteen years ago. The World Cup is another story.

What of 1978? England's present chances of penetrating the Italian *catenaccio* defence are negligible, and before you laugh off the idea of Italy scoring goals, remember that they have plenty of forwards immeasurably more gifted than our own, used to going it virtually alone against the massed defences of Serie A; even if they do not often succeed in internationals. Giancarlo Antognoni, the blond young Perugian inside-forward of Fiorentina, is beginning now to express himself in midfield, and I know of no English inside-forward remotely as gifted.

The Juventus sweeper, Scirea, is one of the most splendidly gifted players of his generation and can, when he is called up, give a new dimension to an Italian team which still plays with a rigidly old fashioned sweeper such as Facchetti. The Juventus block, at large, guarantees team work and stability; Capello, Causio, Furino, Bettega, Anastasi, Gentile and the newcomer, Tardelli, are all excellent players.

Revie, of course, must keep on his toes, must see to it that the Italians don't manipulate the referee of their choice, one, in their own euphemistic language, who "understands" the Italian game. Given the background of the 1968 Nations Cup, the Italy-Poland World Cup match of 1974, it is never very pleasant to play Italy, though Solti has thank God had his lumps, and his well known mentor has not lately been so active.

No aspersions on those two fine fellows, old friends of mine, Fulvio Bernardini and Enzo Bearzot, honest and decent to a degree; but so was Valcareggi, and there is still a miasma over that Poland v Italy game in Stuttgart.

It's a shame that Wales should, for the second World Cup running, be drawn in a group with another British team; Scotland, this time. The Welsh have done gloriously well in the Nations Cup, in which all further success to them, and they must be optimistic about getting the better at least of Scotland, who have lost the vital influence, the inspiration, of Billy Bremner, and are still managerially ill at ease. In this department Wales, with the revelation of Mike Smith, seem better placed than any of the other British teams.

Brave

Czechoslovakia, the third team in the group, were of course eliminated by the Scots from the 1974 World Cup. With Panenka fit, Masny in form, Nehoda and Gallis gaining experience, they won't be easy to beat, though I think I would make Wales the favourites. And will it at last be brave little Eire's turn to qualify for a major tournament? Bulgaria are in the doldrums, France are still looking for a team and an image. Eire, under Johnny Giles, would appear to have found both.

Italy's national squad pictured before their match against Holland. Back row left to right: Benetti, Zoff, Bellugi, Gentile, Rocca, Savoldi, Bearzot (trainer). Front: Capello, Pulici, Causio, Facchetti, Antognoni.

Personal Opinion

WHY DO W LOSE VITA

PLAYED 11, won 6, drew 4, lost 1. "This is a record good enough to win any League," as people were in the habit of saying to whitewash Ramsey's dismal failures. But the above statistics refer to the short Revie-regime, and while it is true that it might be good enough to win some imaginary League, it was not even remotely effective to top the one they happened to be playing in.

To paraphrase the immortal words of Lady Bracknell: "Not to qualify for the World Cup may be considered a misfortune, but to also miss the last eight of the European Championship looks like carelessness."

Neglect might be the more accurate adjective, and I would like to echo the sentiments of a colleague, who in the privacy of a deserted TV studio, voiced his bitter disappointment with the question: "Why do we always lose the vital matches?"

Why indeed! Immediately after the Lisbon fiasco we had the, by now, famous Hardaker attack on Don Revie. The worthy League secretary is a much cleverer man than some commentators give him credit for, and he is an excellent administrator. Some of his remarks were dead on target, others way off it.

Principle

I do not wish to arbitrate between the two protagonists. Colleagues said that the tragedy was that both of them are right. In my view, the real tragedy is that neither of them are right, since both are looking at our present predicament from a standpoint of a false premise.

Deep down, Hardaker doesn't really believe that international football is important. Revie thinks that it is possible to run a national team on the same principles as one would when managing a club-side. His record with Leeds speaks for itself — to coin a phrase, but there was a tendency of "over-anxiety" when planning and approaching important matches.

Hence the repeated failures in one-match Cup Finals, last breath slips during championship run-ins. Meticulous tactical preparation, an eye for detail, is commendable, as long as it doesn't foster rigidity in thinking and intolerable pressures for the players.

"While Revie was at Leeds, he put the concept of fear into me," said one of his players to me. "The fear of losing my place in the side, the fear of not winning that particular game, the fear of not following instructions to the letter."

But a great manager — and Don Revie certainly deserves to be included in this category — doesn't lose his touch by merely moving from one office to another. He has made mistakes, but his ability cannot be questioned. During the '74/'75 season, I felt that Revie used too many players. The constant chopping and changing wasn't beneficial to the team or to the players, who were judged on one or two performances. This was meant as a demonstration of fairness, but in fact, it had an adverse effect.

The 'two bad matches and you're out' principle undermines the players' confidence, knowing that one mistake could affect their entire international career.

But happily, the 5-1 triumph over Scotland, the last international game of the season, gave us a glimpse of a more settled side, and indeed, it convinced the team manager that in Gerry Francis, he found a skipper for years to come. Unfortunately, by September, it became clear that our optimism was ill-founded. The pantomime surrounding the Swiss game in Basle saddened me.

Charade

Revie put false "number-plates" on his players (Channon No. 3, Keegan No 16 etc.), told them not to use any of the much-practised "set pieces" at free-kicks, and even changed his penalty-taker. This ridiculous charade didn't fool anybody, it only succeeded in making the England team look petty in the eyes of the Continentals.

Jozek, the Czech national team boss, said: "I know the England players like I know my own squad. Even if they played wearing nylon-stockings over their heads, I would have recognized them." Once again, by using this childish ploy, Revie implanted in his players minds the fear-factor. "The Czechs, must be good if we have to go to this length to kid them," they must have thought.

No idle boasting could compensate for this subtle brainwashing. The first game was abandoned because of fog, but 17 minutes of invisible football convinced the manager and the Press that the Czechs were "ready to be taken". 90 minutes without fog proved otherwise, which again left the whole camp with the proverbial egg on their faces. Before the Portugal game, Revie adopted a different stance.

The crocodile tears were falling freely, half of the the team were injured, we had no time to prepare. A manager shouldn't sit by the telephone on a Saturday night waiting anxiously for messages from the Red Cross etc. Eventually, of course, everybody played (what would our Press say if one of the Continental managers adopted this 'corny trick'?) except Bell, Bowles and McFarland who didn't travel. Portugal lined-up without Humberto, Jordao and Oliveira. 3-3? Fair enough — no room for excuses there!

Confuse

So, we were out, and I didn't believe the rumours that England deliberately played badly to confuse the observers from Finland and Luxembourg. After all, the World Cup draw took place on the following day . . . But apart from the unnecessary gamesmanship, I cannot find many faults with Revie's management.

It is the oldest truism in the game, that the best players are always the ones who are not on the field. Hudson? Perhaps. Shilton? Not much in it. Alright, Ian Gillard shouldn't have been selected in preference to Nish or Lampard or his own club colleague, Dave Clement, and Tueart might be the answer to our prayers for a genuine goalscoring winger.

But not even a magician could turn the currently available dreary lot into World-beaters, no matter how big a carrot might be dangled in front of their pedestrian noses. That is why Hardaker's accusation that the players are only interested in money is so utterly unrealistic. Money is an obvious incentive, and the likes of Cruyff, Di Stefano and Pele have never played for peanuts.

by Leslie Vernon

WE ALWAYS
TAL MATCHES?

But it is only an incentive to live a frugal life, to prepare properly, and to be available for selection. Once the "curtain is up", no matter how much is in the offing, a carthorse won't beat a thoroughbred. Then we come to the thorny, some might say, crucial question of fixture congestion and the time to prepare.

Here I tend to agree with Mr. Hardaker. Neither W. Germany nor Holland have blank fixture lists on the weekends before midweek internationals. And they managed to develop teams strong enough to appear in the last World Cup Final! Some other countries, like Spain, Russia, Italy, play internationals on Sundays, and members of the squad spend a week together.

But they do not postpone fixtures. They budget for a free day in advance. For instance, a glance at the Bundesliga fixtures, show that they have no matches scheduled for April 24 or for May 22 — the dates designated for E.C Quarter-Finals. When their fixtures were prepared, they hadn't qualified yet (in fact they are still not in the last eight!), but they left these days open. Nothing fixed, nothing has to be postponed — get it Mr. Hardaker? One never ceases to marvel at the planning ability of these cunning Germans!

Solutions

Of course, the other countries in line for a spot in the quarter-finals did the same, but such simple solutions are beyond the wit and scope of our Football League. The benefits of lengthy get-togethers are being questioned in several countries. The Russians (before the advent of Dynamo Kiev as the national side), Poland, Hungary, even Italy, have drastically reduced the time spent in "quarantine" by the players.

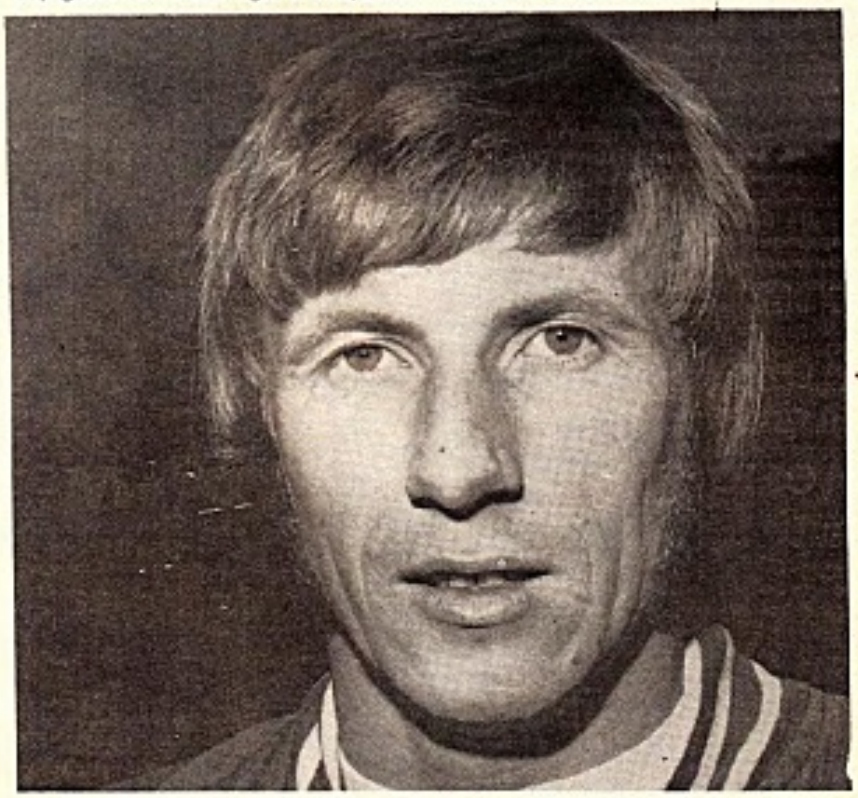
Going by the general consensus of expert opinion, I would say one clear week is the ideal gap between a League fixture and an international. The legislators must find a way to provide that amount of time for the managers of national teams of England, Scotland, N. Ireland and Wales.

This move wouldn't really solve the problem, because the crux of the matter is that, in this country, only a handful of people understand foreign football. The others don't realize that football is an art-form, a way of self-expression.

Consequently, people who come from different environments play it, approach it, appreciate it in a different way. There is no point in looking at Brazil or Czechoslovakia and talking about them as though they were Preston or Bristol Rovers. Their reactions to situations will be different. What our "experts" consider strange or unwise might be second nature to them.

As long as we do not rectify this basic misconception, we have no hope of any significant advance. We will continue to be amazed that our top goalscorers don't get a kick, our overpraised midfielders run around aimlessly, and that our defences are constantly dumbfounded when facing foreign opposition. 'Red herrings' like bonuses, preparation, too many games, misguided team selection, etc, only help to obscure the main issue. We need a completely fresh approach.

Our leading coaches (apologies to the few exceptions!) must learn to look at foreign teams more thoroughly, and judge them on their own terms. And there is no such thing as a Continental-style or South American-style. The Italians are different from the Russians, the Brazilians are not the same as the boys from Uruguay. They speak a different language — with their feet! We must study that language, otherwise our current mediocrity will become permanent.



Colin Bell of England

HAWKES NIGERIA BOUND!

ALTHOUGH HE has had plenty of hair-raising experiences over the past 18 months Alan Hawkes, an FA coach from the West Midlands, is returning to Nigeria over the next few weeks to take up another 18 months contract as chief coach to the Western state.

Hawkes, who has ambitions to join a Football League club upon the completion of his new contract, has discovered during his three months leave back in England that he is being paid a great deal more money than most managers in the First Division.

Commenting on the past 18 months, Hawkes said: "I feel that with the experience I have gained in Nigeria I will be fully equipped to take on a job with a League club.

Alan Hawkes — FA coach in Nigeria

"Personally, I've enjoyed the last 18 months in Nigeria. It is a fabulous country and I would not have missed the experience for anything.

"Some of the sights are out of this world. It is completely different from life in this country.

"There are times, however, when it can be very frustrating. The electricity and water can go off for the whole day and it is on these occasions that you appreciate the trouble-free services enjoyed in England.

"But every day, so far as I was concerned, was like a Saturday. It is a grand life despite the obvious draw-backs.

"On the soccer front there is a great deal of potential. Players, however, do not move around the country because of their religious and tribal allegiance.

Common

"One of the few things I did not like was the long away trips to matches. It is common to travel between 700 and 800 miles to games and spend 15 to 20 hours in stifling conditions on a coach.

"I remember one of the early games when we had to make a 400 mile road trip and nearly finished up in a ravine after we had taken the wrong turn-off.

"The following day we played Enugu Rangers, who are a very famous team in Africa. They have eleven players in the National squad, the Green Eagles, and are an extremely competent side.

"We lost 1-0 but ten minutes before the end of the match a riot broke out after we had been awarded a penalty. The referee then changed his mind and this started all the trouble.

"I quickly realised that I was the only white man in the stadium. In these circumstances I thought it better if I obtained a place of refuge.

"I made my way to the club coach which was parked near the pitch. From time to time I looked up to see what was going on.

"Eventually, the game was completed and when we were leaving the stadium I said to one of the players: 'I've been frightened a few times in my life but never as frightened as I was during the game.'

Qualified

"He turned round to me and said: 'Coach, I think we were very lucky. The last time we came here they set the motor-coach alight. They poured oil onto it and set it on fire.' "

Hawkes was also responsible for the Abidjan team. He enjoyed considerable success as he guided the side into second place in the national league and in doing so they qualified for the African tournament.

Their average gate was nearly 20,000 and at times this figure would shoot up to 30,000.

They also reached the Challenge Cup Final in Lagos when they were beaten 1-0 by their old rivals, Enugu Rangers, in front of a 100,000 crowd.

The players, claims Hawkes, are very skilful and rarely give up.

He adds: "I know that people say to me that the Continental countries and the Africans are bad losers and cannot fight back. This is something I cannot say about the Nigerians. They are very competitive and when they are losing they try extremely hard to regain the lead.

"They are very religious and say prayers before we go out for a match.

"The rivalry between the teams is tribalistic and with three main tribes in the country I can

PAUL HARRIS reports from Papua, New Guinea

Australia fail to beat the USSR

AUSTRALIA HAVE drawn three and lost three internationals in the six-match "soccer test" series against a squad that included most of Russia's Olympic prospects.

Brian Green's Socceroos showed some attacking skills despite the unimpressive 4-9 aggregate.

Some of the best forward and midfield play came in the third game at Olympic Park, Melbourne. Watched by a crowd of 16,000 Ernie Campbell scored Australia's first goal of the series to give them a lead they held until the 71st minute.

In the second half skipper, Dolmatov went close for the U.S.S.R. Before Jakubik equalised. Kozlov scored the winner in the 77th minute.

A similar pattern was repeated in the fifth test. Australia led 2-1 at half-time through headers by Olferton and Barnes. The Aussies faded in the second half, Jakubik and Gavilov adding to Gershkovich's goal for a Soviet team determined to preserve its unbeaten record for the tour.

Fatigue

Many of the Aussie-Soviet battles were fought in midfield. The Sydney players, Angior Munez of Hakoah and Harding of Pan Hellenic had mixed success, showing first-half promise and second-half fatigue.

In future Green may look to ball-winner, Jimmey Rooney, a World Cup representative in Germany. Rooney started for the Australia B side which beat Victoria 3-1 as a curtain-raiser to the third match.

16.11.75	(Perth):	Australia 0-0 U.S.S.R.
20.11.75	(Adelaide):	Australia 0-3 U.S.S.R.
23.11.75	(Melbourne):	Australia 1-2 U.S.S.R.
26.11.75	(Brisbane):	Australia 0-0 U.S.S.R.
30.11.75	(Sydney):	Australia 2-3 U.S.S.R.
3.12.75	(Newcastle):	Australia 1-1 U.S.S.R.

In defence, Utjensenovic, Wilson and goalkeeper, Clarke, each put in solid performances for the Socceroos. The Sydney test marked Wilson's 47th appearance for his country.

The Russian squad was built around Moscow Dynamo players, but exceptions included Dynamo Kiev's Damon. The Russian team manager, Sevidov, appears satisfied with the all-round performance of his players. He has paid "complement" to Australian soccer, likening the national side's standard to that of Greece, Switzerland and Finland, and hinting at a possible return tour.

The main players involved in the series were as follows:

Australia: Clarke, Harris, Wilson, Williams, Bennett, Tansley, Utjensenovic, Harding, Munez, Burne, Rooney, Campbell, Olferton, Barnes.

Soviet Union: Gontar, Nikuliv, Damon, Navikov, Dolmatov, Zenkov, Mahavikov, Jakubik, Gershkovich, Eurujihind, Shepal, Kozlov, Gavrilov.

Before a capacity 90,000 crowd at the Worker's Stadium in Peking, New Zealand lost 2-1 to China in the first match of their Asian tour. Li Chou-chen opened the scoring in the 17th minute, and China went two up from a fine shot by Jung Chih-hang.

In the later stages Ian Ormond, the Blockhouse Bay striker, reduced the lead and the New Zealanders almost saved the match, having a goal by Thomas disallowed. The Chinese team included many of the players who recently visited New Zealand. Christchurch United are this season's top club side, winning the national "soccer double".

In a play-off series for a place in the National League, Wellington Diamond United look certain to qualify ahead of Wellington City, Manawewa and Christchurch Rangers.

Former National Coach, Ralp Suchanek, has left for Australia to manage the Brisbane club, Redcliffe.

A former Czech international and coach of the Iranian and Malaysian national sides, Suchanek has been at the centre of a row between the PNGFA and Lae FA. Redcliffe and Suchanek have set up a scholarhip to provide training in Australia for Niuginian players and officials.

The PNGFA has responded by urging unity amongst soccer associations in order to allow adequate preparation for the pre-Olympic zone 2 tournament.

The competition to be held in Indonesia between 15th February and 1st March will bring together leading Asian soccer nations, though Bangladesh have already withdrawn.

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always feel the tension when the teams meet.

"Generally there is little movement of players between clubs because of this reason.

"In future this could change as the country as a whole, which is rich in many resources, really becomes a power.

"At the present there is still this rivalry which exists between the fans of the teams. It is common to go to matches and hear the tribal drums throughout the whole game. They get very excited as they enjoy football very much.

"They know what they want from soccer and I feel sure in the future they will have all their demands met."

Hawkes claims that he is trying to improve the skill and techniques of his players.

He said: "I don't want players who can race about at terrific speed and do nothing. I want them to pass and shoot more accurately and to head the ball stronger than they do now."

Meanwhile, Hawkes is looking forward to another 18 months in Nigeria when he will be able to put over more of his ideas and in turn bring him more recognition — and a job with a Football League club.

BOOK REVIEW

The Rothman's Football Year Book has filled a void in the British market and its popularity is now established. It represents very good value, of course, with its wealth of information, statistics, etc., compiled by WORLD SOCCER stalwarts Jack Rollin and Leslie Vernon.

In a similar mould, though with a different emphasis, is the World Football Handbook 1976 compiled by Brian Glanville, another distinguished WORLD SOCCER contributor.

This excellent pocket-sized publication is invaluable to the soccer connoisseur and, at 85p, will not dent his pocket. Copious details of the various European competitions, the World Cup and other international matches are included in a publication that ranks high on my list of personal favourites.

P.R.

ARTHUR ROTMIL looks at the

WEST HAM GLOOM IN

Frank Lampard, West Ham's international full back.

AT A time when almost everybody — including a number of nobodies — are trying to bury English football, I can offer a ray of hope even in this, so disappointing season for the motherland of soccer. West Ham, the last English survivors in a major European tournament (I exclude the UEFA-Cup from the more aristocratic contests), can take the Cup Winners' Cup and thus help to lift the gloom currently settling over the game in this country.

After a detailed study of the remaining contenders in the quarter-finals of the competition, and provided all goes according to form, whilst bearing in mind the "glorious uncertainty" of football, it appears that West Ham could and indeed should, clinch this trophy for the second time in their history.

By a strange coincidence their chief rivals are now West Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt — it will be remembered that the "Hammers" won this Cup in 1965, by beating another German team, 1860 Munich, in the final at Wembley by 2-0. If they don't meet sooner, then West Ham and Eintracht Frankfurt could stage a final worthy to rank alongside the best in this, the youngest of the three principal European tournaments, began in 1960.

Progressive

West Ham's victory in the English FA Cup final was the crowning achievement first of all for manager Ron Greenwood, who despite a meagre decade, in which the East Londoners often had to fight against relegation, remained true to his principles of providing the English soccer scene with a progressive, entertaining, skilful, but always extremely fair brand of football.

West Ham's methods often shone like a beacon through the darkness contrived by the cynical "win-at-all-costs" approach by other League clubs. Some of them may have been more successful, but the fans were not fooled and so West Ham, for all their indifferent results and no tangible gains, retained the affection and support of their followers.

While gates began to slump alarmingly at other grounds, Upton Park reported consistent average attendances at home League matches of around 30,000.

The turning point in the fortunes of the "Hammers" came at the start of last season, when Ron Greenwood became general manager and delegated the coaching duties to his assistant John Lyall, who is now the team manager. This system of divided responsibility — administrative and playing side — so successfully adopted on the Continent, is already being copied by other British clubs.

The engagements of forwards like Billy Jennings, Keith Robson and above all, that lethal striker Alan Taylor, completed (almost) the jigsaw for West Ham's best team. The determination, and fighting spirit, as personified for instance by captain Billy Bonds, allied to the technique and tactical know-how fostered by Greenwood and Lyall, have made the "Hammers" one of the best teams in England, as one look at the current League table confirms. What then are their chances of winning the Cup Winners' trophy?

Contribution

Their main rivals must be Eintracht Frankfurt, representing the West German *Bundesliga*, whom many Continental experts now regard as the strongest professional League in the world.

Eintracht, never forgotten in this country for their contribution to the finest European Cup final of them all (1960 against Real Madrid at Hampden Park), have been German champions in 1959, and have won the cup for the first time last year, and again last season.

Captained by the famous international Jürgen Grabowski, who together with forward Bernd Hölzenbein starred for his country in the last World Cup final, the Frankfurters also boast several other useful performers, like centre back Karl-Heinz Körbel, a current international, who is only 21, but has already gained six caps.

Right back Peter Reichel (23) has just received his first call up to the international squad; midfielder Bernd Nickel still an amateur, has played 41 times for Germany's national amateur side; striker Rudiger Wenzel is currently Eintracht's top League scorer with nine goals.

Rivals

As the next toughest rivals of West Ham, I would jointly bracket Celtic and Anderlecht. The Scottish cup holders, who have more experience of European competitions than any other British club and were in fact the first British winners of the coveted Champions Cup (1967), would have been rated favourites for this trophy, except that the club have not yet completed the vital stage of rebuilding and rejuvenation.

Captain and stopper McNeil, defenders Brogan and Connelly, plus forwards Murray and Johnstone have all left and clearly, the

Cup Winners Cup survivors

CAN LIFT ENGLAND

Alan Taylor scores West Ham United's winning goal against Arsenal at Upton Park.

loss of such tried and dependable players cannot be overcome at the highest level of international competition quite so easily. Their latest acquisition, the Icelandic international Johannes Edvaldsson, looks great, but in defence, except for McGrain, Celtic do not possess the necessary steadiness, as yet.

The large squad at the disposal of acting manager Sean Fallon (Jock Stein only just recovered from a car accident), is at once a blessing and a curse. The constant switching of players has understandably created instability, so that even such redoubtable stars as Dalglish, Deans and the veteran Bobby Lennox suffer from the lack of cohesion.

Career

Anderlecht, recently in the market for the former England international Rodney Marsh, have already made a couple of signings in the summer to strengthen their ageing team. The Dutch World Cup star Arie Haan (from Ajax), and forward Peter Ressel (from Feyenoord), joined the Brussels outfit, whilst Anderlecht's long serving captain Paul Van Himst, the finest player this country has produced in the last decade, has left to end his career with reigning champions RWD Molenbeek.

Anderlecht's new coach, the Dutchman Hans Croon, can rely on an all-international defence, a midfield reinforced by Haan and up front another member of Holland's World Cup team in Robert Rensesbrinck. Croon's biggest problem and one which has plagued this club for some time, still remains: How to make the lilac-and-whites play better away from home? On their own Parc Astrid, the Belgians are almost invincible, but they have lost numerous European ties through their inability to reproduce similar form abroad.

Meteoric

I doubt whether West Ham need to fear the other contenders, although the Dutch entry Den Haag might prove difficult to overcome, after all, their country's recent rise to soccer fame has been quite meteoric. The break through achieved by Feyenoord and Ajax, then carried on by Twente Enschede and PSV Eindhoven is obviously spreading and benefiting other clubs.

But apart from striker Lex Schoenmaker (formerly with Feyenoord), this club from the royal capital of The Hague does not boast any outstanding players and not one of their number figured in Holland's so successful World Cup squad of 1974.

East Germany's Cup holders Sachsenring Zwickau at least boast a superb goalkeeper in the redoubtable Jürgen Croy (29), who has played a record 65 internationals for his country. He in fact is the man who led Zwickau first into this competition, and then into the quarter-finals.

In the East German Cup final Croy saved two penalties against Dynamo Dresden, in the decisive contest, after the score after extra time remained at 2-2. Then he converted the last spot kick to give his side the Cup!

In the Second Round of this tournament Croy again saved a penalty against Fiorentina, and then clinched the tie by netting from the spot! But otherwise Sachsenring do not rank among the consistently successful clubs of that country, although they twice won the cup previously under the name of Motor Zwickau.

Similarly, Austria's representatives Sturm Graz are also not members of the élite in their country and this contest they have only entered as beaten cup finalists, for Svarovski Innsbruck having completed the "double" naturally elected to play in the Champions Cup.

Schemer

Graz also rely on one current international, schemer Manfred Steiner. The club managed by Karl Schlechta, who formerly played for FAC and Wacker, and then coached FK Austria and Austria Salzburg, have enjoyed the luck of the draw, hence their arrival in the last eight.

The same applies to Britain's third representatives here, little Wrexham, who play for Wales, but languish in England's Third Division. Despite internationals like 'keeper Brian Lloyd and schemer Arfon Griffiths, this team should not trouble West Ham either — after all, this is not the FA Cup, with its "one-game-you're-out" nonsense!

SPAIN REACH LAST EIGHT— KUBALA STAYS

Spanish Notebook by Keir Radnedge

LASZY KUBALA took over the Spanish national team in October, 1969. Since then they've played 33 games, winning 17, drawing 12 and losing a mere four. They've scored 58 goals and conceded 27.

That record will stand comparison with most national team bosses. What will not do is the fact that Spain under Kubala had, until November 16, achieved absolutely nothing.

They'd failed to reach the 1974 World Cup Finals — the 1970 die was cast before Kubala took over — and failed to break through to the European Championship quarter finals in 1970-72. That's what made the Rumania-Spain clash in Bucharest recently so vital. It wasn't just a matter of whether Spain gained the point to assure their place in the quarter finals at last. Kubala's future depended on it. it.

The result you no doubt know — a 2-2 draw. Spain go through. Scotland and Rumania go out. And Kubala carries on to the World Cup qualifying round with confidence. Added to that, Spain's 1-1 draw with Bulgaria in the Olympic qualifiers and the juniors' victory in the Monaco tournament — they beat France 2-1 after extra time in the final — have all contribated to give Spanish football a new pride in the national team.

(And this despite the influx of all the foreigners).

The 2-2 draw in Rumania is seen as a good omen. In 1962 the two countries met for the first time, in the European Championship qualifiers. Spain won 6-0 and lost the return 3-1 on their way to winning the championship — Nations' Cup as it then was.

Real Madrid beat Dinamo Bucharest in the first round of the Champions' Cup this season to add to Spanish feelings of superiority, which were increased by two goals from Angel Villar (29 minutes) and Carlos Santillana (57) in Bucharest.

The football Spain played in that first half was perhaps the best under Kubala, with Madrid's Vicente del Bosque outstanding in midfield. But over-confidence set in. Dudu Georgescu converted a controversial 71st-minute penalty and Anghel Iordanescu made it 2-2 ten minutes from time.

The Spanish camp were highly critical of West German referee Hans Weyland afterwards but didn't let that affect delight at the consequences of the draw.

Kubala based his team more solidly on Real Madrid than he would have wished. Ideally he'd always go for Jose Iribar in goal, but he's been ill, so Miguel Angel deputised very capably. Kubala also prefers Atletico Madrid's Jose Luis Capon as full back partner for Antonio Camacho. But Capon was hurt in training, so that meant a last-minute recall for Juan Sol, lining up alongside other Madrid defenders in Pirri and Gregorio Benito.

Santillana of Real Madrid and Canos of Hercules during a Spanish League match.

Potential

There was del Bosque in midfield and Santillana to lead the attack. The 'outsiders' were Bilbao's Villar in midfield, Barcelona's Migueli in defence, and Quini (Gijon) and Chechu Rojo (Bilbao) up front.

Kubala's never been afraid to bring in youngsters if they've the potenial, as he showed with his choice of substitutes. Both Real Sociedad's Jesus Satrustegui and Barcelona's Francisco Fortes came on for their first caps in the closing stages.

Fortes made his debut for CFB this season in the 6-1 UEFA Cup win over PAOK Salonica and is one of several youngsters introduced by Hennes Weisweiler. Others include full back Antonio Corominas and another winger, Miguel Mir. Things aren't going too well, though, at Nou Camp. Weisweiler has now decided that Marcial, after all, isn't cut out to be a sweeper. He's impressive enough going forward, but hasn't got a decisive enough tackle going back. So Enrique Costas is playing again after five months out because of illness and Marcial must struggle for a place in midfield.

Hugo Sotil, the saviour of Barcelona while he was ineligible last season (!), started the season brilliantly, but is now out of favour too. Weisweiler has criticised him for not putting enough effort into his game. Perhaps Sotil's suffering a hangover from the celebrations in Lima after helping Peru beat Colombia to win the South American Championship.

Hercules goalkeeper Diez is challenged by Pirri of Real Madrid during a recent Spanish League match which ended 2-2.

Costas returned in the 1-1 draw at Oviedo. Then came a 1-1 draw at home with Hercules, and a 1-0 defeat by Betis, before Barsa recovered to beat Las Palmas 3-0 at home. Not that a victory over Las Palmas these days counts for much — they're joint bottom and Heriberto Herrera, who only took over in the summer, can't have long to go.

Management

Las Palmas and Oviedo have four points, last season's runners-up Zaragoza have five, then come Gijon (seven) and Elche (eight). Gijon, of course, have a new boss in Pierre Sinibaldi, and Elche to have lately come under new management. Nestor Rossi is out, and former France, Nice and Atletico Madrid goalkeeper Marcel Domingo is in.

Above Elche are Valencia, strengthened by the return to fitness of defender Jesus Martinez, but still providing new coach Manolo Mestre with plenty of headaches. Johnny Rep was sent off in the 3-1 defeat by Sevilla, and then came in for an £800 club fine for going home to Amsterdam for two days without permission. Now it seems Köln are ready to pay £180,000 for him — that's some £60,000 more than he cost Valencia.

Also sent off that same day was Atletico Madrid's unruly Argentinian Ruben Panadero Diaz in an extraordinary game at Granada, where the manager of course is Miguel Munoz. Uruguayan centre forward Denis Milar converted a first-minute penalty after Eusebio handled, and Atletico went 2-0 down to a Megido goal after nine minutes.

Even worse, Diaz fouled Milar in the 29th minute, was booked by referee Acebal Pezon, protested a little too violently and vehemently, and was duly sent off. Yet 2-0 down, and with only ten men, the *Colchoneros* fought back. In the 31st minute Hugo Ayala scored from a fortuitous penalty and two minutes after the interval came a peculiar equaliser.

Awarded

Luis Pereira took a free kick, Ayala headed it on, and Baena's shot struck both posts before rebounding into play. Nevertheless referee Pezon awarded a goal, and in the 55th minute Atletico, incredibly, took the lead. This time Pereira was the scorer, heading in a glorious swirling centre from fellow Brazilian Leivinha.

Granada weren't finished. Milar equalised with 13 minutes left, only for Leivinha to snatch the winner for the ten men in the last minute. A remarkable game, which also included the white card — not yellow as everywhere else — for Miguel Munoz. What was that all about? the former Madrid chief was asked later.

"I couldn't tell you, "said MM. "All I asked the ref was why he wanted to change the match ball when he did!"

The result was little consolation for Diaz. All he got was a six match ban. Indeed, he was all set to pack up and go home to Argentina until president Vicente Calderon called him in for a fatherly chat.

Granada were upset about Baena's goal, but that was nothing compared with the furore which followed Real Madrid's 1-1 draw at Sevilla. Madrid's goal came from Paul Breitner — and Sevilla goalkeeper Paco claimed that the ball went in through a hole in the side net. Only justice then, replied Madrid, who thought Santillana should have had a goal when a shot of his came down off the crossbar and was cleared from — they thought — behind the goal-line.

TIP-BITS

NOT AGAIN? That was Spain's reaction to the World Cup draw. For a start, the Spaniards have seen enough of Rumania and Rumanian club teams lately to have a high regard for them.

They've also seen too much in the past few years of Yugoslavia. Both countries were in the same qualifying group for Mexico — Belgium sneaked through — and the Yugoslavs beat Spain in the Frankfurt play-off to get to West Germany. Ah well, third time lucky?

PIRRI, captain of Spain, will have particular reason to remember the Baseball Ground clash with Derby — and not just for that goal which was disallowed. That was his 69th European Cup tie and he thus overtook Alfredo di Stefano's total. Pirri has some way to go to catch Francisco Gento's record though. El Supersonico *played in 98!*

PAUL BREITNER and Günter Netzer say there's no going back now — they've definitely decided not to play for West Germany again. Netzer's decision is a gesture of solidarity, for he was ruled out because of injury when Helmut Schoen decided to face Bulgaria without Paul Breitner.

The former Bayern star was upset that he only learned of Schoen's decision through the Press. Seems a minor point, but they say it's the last straw . . .

DERBY'S brave acceptance of defeat in Chamartin won them many admirers. As Miljan Miljanic said: "If we'd lost our lead in Bucharest in the first round like that I'm sure we wouldn't have gone down with such good grace . . ." But then, the British also were good losers.

World Soccer Diary

World Soccer Diary

Shocks in Polish cup competition

GIANT-KILLING in cup competitions is not confined solely to English clubs. In the quarter-finals of the Polish Cup there were several shocks.

First Division club Legia Warsaw were beaten away by Third Division GSK Jastrzebie 4-3 on penalties after the game had been drawn 0-0. Second Division Gwardia Koszalin beat Gornik Zabrze similarly on spot kicks after drawing 1-1 and Second Division Stoczniowiec Gdansk made it a hat-trick of surprises by beating LKS Lodz 3-0.

Lodz had their two World Cup stars, Jan Tomaszewski the famous 'Clough clown' goalkeeper and centre-back Miroslaw Bulzacki sent off in the match!

★★★

HERTHA BERLIN, who are lying ninth in the Bundesliga having scored 36 goals in their 16 League games, can boast of possessing the two highest scoring players in the West German Super league.

And between them they have scored all but seven of the Hertha goals, top scorer is Erich Beer with 16 goals while Erwin Kostedde has 13.

★★★

TED MACDOUGALL, the Norwich City and Scottish international striker, has scored in nine matches against his former clubs and in the space of four years, too. He has scored three times each against Manchester United and Liverpool, twice against West Ham and once against York City.

MacDougall remains the leading scorer in the First Division with 15 League and three League Cup goals and is a strong candidate for Europe's Golden Shoe award as the leading marksman in 1975-76 season.

★★★

BRENDAN BRADLEY recently scored all Finn Harps goals in their 6-1 League of Ireland game against Sligo. But the following week they slumped to their first championship defeat in 10 games when Athlone Town staged a remarkable recovery against them.

Finn Harps were leading 2-0 with only 20 minutes to go when Athlone scored three times to a spectacular recovery.

BAYERN MUNICH are hoping that they have discovered a prolific scoring striker to take over the role of Gerd Muller. He is Rainer Kunkel, a 25-year-old from SV Darmstadt 98, who play in the Second Division South of the Bundesliga.

The cost of his transfer is likely to be around £50,000 though Werder Bremen were also interested in him at a fee in the region of half of it.

★★★

SWEDEN'S PLAYER of the Year is a 30-year-old defender Kent Karlsson of Atvidaberg who is an experienced international for his country.

Although overshadowed in recent years by Malmo, Atvidaberg have been a formidable side in the Swedish First Division and Karlsson has been one of their outstanding players.

★★★

AUSTRALIA'S MOST capped player, the blond centre-back Manfred Schaefer, who played in the 1974 World Cup, is taking up coaching. Born in Germany, Schaefer went to Australia in his teens and had a distinguished career in the game.

Now he has returned to Europe where he is studying training methods in Hamburg and Bremen in his native country as well as finishing up in Spain for a special course at Barcelona.

★★★

AS A result of a bruising UEFA Cup match between Hamburg (West Germany) and Porto (Portugal), the European governing body have lashed out with fines and suspensions.

Both clubs were fined and five players suspended. Ettmayer of Hamburg received a one match suspension, while Porto's Oliveira was banned for four games, Mendes and Merceiles for three each and Dinis for two matches.

★★★

THE YOUTH policy of Austria WAC the Austrian Bundesliga leaders appears to be paying off. At the half way stage of the season they are top and looking capable of taking the championship in the second half of the term.

With an average of 23 the side is being masterminded by coach Karl Stotz a former Austrian international centre-back. He has only three veterans in the squad, the international right back Sara, former Schalke 04 striker Hans Pirkner at centre-forward and Uruguayan international winger Morales.

The Bayern Munich training headquarters.

AJAX SIGN PETERSEN FROM FC COPENHAGEN

AFTER AJAX recent improvement under Rinus Michels the club received something of a set-back when they were eliminated from the UEFA Cup by the Bulgarian club Lenski-Spartak on penalty kicks.

But Ajax had better luck in the Dutch Cup at the expense of local rivals FC Amsterdam whom they defeated 3-1 to reach the quarter-finals of the domestic competition.

Only 10,000 turned up at the Olympic Stadium to watch the game which saw Amsterdam parade their new signing Bjarne Petersen a Dane transferred from KB Copenhagen.

He took the place of Nico Jansen now transferred to Feyenoord.

And despite the fact that he had had little or no time to prepare for this game managed to open the score after five minutes.

But Ajax levelled the scores two minutes later through Geels from a penalty after Brokamp had been fouled.

Control

In the second half Ajax took control and goals from Barry Hulshoff and Geels again gave them victory.

Feyenoord found it tougher going at Deventer where Go Ahead Eagles flew smartly into action but fell to a goal by Theo De Jong after 68 minutes.

And it was not until five minutes before the end that they equalised.

However following extra time, Feyenoord emerged successfully as a result of the penalty competition.

The biggest shock of the round was undoubtedly the defeat suffered by Twente in Alkmaar against AZ 67, who scored twice without reply.

PSV Eindhoven beat FC Den Haag 3-2 which proved to be a good performance by them as they were without the Van der Kerkhof twins who had been injured the previous week against Utrecht.

Ajax have also been busy in the transfer market recruiting a couple of Danish players themselves. Both are teenagers who have signed two year contracts with the Amsterdam club.

They are Sorem Lerby (17) and Frank Arnesen (19).

★★★

NAPOLI REGAINED the leadership of the Italian First Division with a 1-0 win in Rome against Lazio before a crowd of 30,000. The only sour note for the winners came when their goalscorer Beppo Savoldi was carried off injured.

Fortunately, too, Napoli owed their return to the top to the defeat of Juventus who lost the Turin derby 2-0 to Torino. Goals by Pulici and Graziani saw the winners through safely, leaving Juventus a point behind Napoli.

Milan won the Milanese derby beating Inter 2-1 with Gianni Rivera having to sit it out injured in the stands. The winning goal did not come until the 73rd minute when Villa gave AC Milan the points.

Fiorentina improved their poor League position by beating AS Roma 2-0 but produced their best football in beating West Ham United in the Anglo-Italian Cup Winners Cup 1-0 at Upton Park and 2-0 on aggregate.

★★★

THE TALKING point in Belgium recently has been the slump of Lokeren who had held the leadership of the First Division since early in the season.

Their latest defeat 2-1 away to Standard Liege left them in seventh place.

But it came only a few days after the authorities had ordered the replay of their match with FC Liege earlier in the season which had been abandoned in poor light with Lokeren leading.

Lokeren officials were furious that they should have been held to any blame in the game and the replay of it has come at a time when their fortunes have been slumping on the field.

Meantime, FC Bruges continue to show their paces at the top of the League establishing a three point lead over four clubs Beveren, Anderlecht, RWD Molenbeek and Waregem.

Bruges are the top scorers in the championship, too, with 32 goals in 15 games and they came safely through their UEFA Cup game with AS Roma in Italy winning 1-0 to record a useful 2-0 aggregate victory.

The only goal of the game came in 57 minutes from Raoul Lambert who is one of five current Belgian internationals in the Bruges side.

★★★

The 'B's are dominating Portuguese football at present. Benfica take pride of place at the top of the lead after 11 matches with 18 points though only because of their superior scoring power as Boavista have the same number of points but 16 fewer goals to their credit.

Sporting Lisbon are third with 16 points and a game in hand while Belenenses are fourth on the same number of points.

Despite his failures in recent international matches, Nene is the leading scorer in the championship for Benfica with 15 goals.

Former Benfica centre-forward and Players Union chairman and communist candidate Artur Jorge is now playing for Belenenses, for whom centre-back Freitas is playing well as is their striker Gonzalez the second highest scorer in the League with 11 goals.

Nicolaou of AEK Athens.

THE 175th clash between Greece's most formidable rivals, Olympiakos and Panathinaikos, resulted in the former winning 4-2 and giving their best performance of the season so far which is only two months old.

An enthusiastic crowd of 45,000 turned up in the Karaiskaki stadium to see the game and saw Karavitis give Olympiakos an eighth minute lead from a free-kick. Grammos headed an equaliser after 26 minutes.

Kritikopoulos restored the home side's lead in 39 minutes and substitute Pampoulis made it 3-1. Vassilopoulos added a fourth before Panathinaikos scored a consolation goal a quarter of an hour from the end of the game.

But AEK Athens are still top of the League with 14 points from eight games having dropped only two points which makes them the only unbeaten side in the championship with 11 points.

Panathinaikos held on to second place with 11 points despite their defeat and Olympiakos are third with the same number of points.

PERU WIN TITLE AFTER PLAY-OFF

PERU WON the South American Championship for the second time this year when the competition was restarted after an interval of eight years. Peru, whose only previous victory had been in 1939 when the tournament was held on home ground in Lima, beat Colombia 1-0 in the final playoff after each country had won the home leg of the final series.

Previous championships had always been played entirely in one country, a system which proved uneconomic, but this year it was played in three groups of three countries playing each other home and away. The three group winners and previous champions, Uruguay, then played semi-finals and finals (home and away).

Qualified

But with Argentina and Brazil fielding provincial selections (instead of full national teams), and Uruguay disappointing, none of the favourites reached the final.

(There is a move afoot to turn the South American Championship into a World Cup qualifying tournament in future to make it more important.)

The new system did, of course, improve the financial side as countries played more at home, although Paraguay complained of a heavy loss in the preliminary stage and almost didn't turn up for their last match . . . and apart from the fact that Peru qualified for the final by drawing lots with Brazil (after a two-legged draw in the semi-final), the championship left a lot to be desired.

Before it was over, Colombia had threatened to withdraw from the South American Confederation and make a complaint to FIFA over the choice of venue and date for the final playoff and the split within the Confederation widened. It could eventually lead to several near Central American countries such as Colombia and Venezuela joining the Central, North American and Caribbean Federation.

Colombia beat Peru 1-0 in a poor first leg in Bogotá with a 30-metre free-kick by Castro which went into the net after 38 minutes. Although Colombia had midfield command, their forwards lacked punch against Peru's defence in which Champitaz and Melendez stood out. Peru, short of two of their best forwards, Sotil and Cubillas, confined themselves to counter attacks by Rojas and Oblitas, but in the end they always lacked a man to get the ball into the net.

Peru deservedly won 2-0 in the second leg played in Lima with goals from Zarate (own goal) and Ramirez in the first half against a Colombian team out for a draw — which was all they needed to take the title. Once behind, Colombia came out of their shell, but their attacks lacked thrust.

Peru won the playoff in Caracas (Venezuela) by 1-0 with the goal coming from Sotil after 25 minutes. Peru then gave up the midfield and defended tightly with sometimes as many as nine men, but with both teams going all out all the way, it was anybodies game and many critics said Colombia should have won.

CHAMPIONS

1916: Uruguay. 1917: Uruguay. 1919: Brazil. 1920: Uruguay. 1921: Argentina. 1922: Brazil. 1923: Uruguay. 1924: Uruguay. 1925: Argentina. 1926: Uruguay. 1927: Argentina. 1929: Argentina. 1935: Uruguay. 1937: Argentina. 1939: Peru. 1941: Argentina. 1942: Uruguay. 1945: Argentina. 1946: Argentina. 1947: Argentina. 1949: Brazil. 1953: Paraguay. 1955: Argentina. 1956: Uruguay. 1957: Argentina. 1959: Argentina. 1959 (2): Uruguay. 1963: Bolivia. 1967: Uruguay. 1975: Peru.

(Total titles (30): Argentina 12, Uruguay 11, Brazil 3, Peru 2, Bolivia and Paraguay 1).

Argentina National Championship: River Plate's key man, Norberto Alonso scores in his team's 5-0 victory over All Boys.

FIFA ARE HAPPY

THE FIFA inspection committee, Herman Neuberger, Herman Joch, Harry Cavan, René Courté and Juan Goñi, which was in Argentina in November to inspect work on stadiums, plans for communications, transport and other installations for the 1978 World Cup finals, at first refused to speak to the Press, partly shielded by Argentine FA officials, but they gave a Press conference at the end of their six-day visit.

While their spokesman, Herman Neurberger, repeatedly stressed that the committee was only here to inspect and report to FIFA but not to give a verdict, the impression was that Argentina would remain as the 1978 World Cup venue without a shadow of doubt.

"If work continues at the same speed, everything should be finished by the end of 1977 and the only ones who can stop the next World Cup finals from being held in Argentina are the Argentines themselves," Neuberger said.

In fact, he has already chosen the Chateau Carreras sports complex, near Cordoba, for the West German team to stay at in 1978 and arrangements are being made for West Germany and Argentina to play an International there in 1977.

Argentina National Championship: Sanabria shoots Hurucan into the lead in their 3-1 victory over Gimnasia y Esgrima de Mendoza.

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

Rosario Central qualify but will the rules change?

WITH ONLY two games to go in the Argentine national championship before the top two teams of the four sections go into a final round, only Rosario Central, who had remained as the only unbeaten team until the 14th match, were sure of a place in the title play-off. But it looked as if this time three non-First Division teams will make the final round — Atletico Tucuman, Ginmasia y Esgrima Jujuy and Talleres Cordoba. (The latter were the first "outsider" ever to make the final round last year).

There's never a dull moment for the fans as goals continue to come at a fast pace — 69 were scored in 16 matches at an average of 4.31 per match on a recent weekend.

Curiosity

The latest meeting between Argentina's two greatest rivals, River Plate and Boca Juniors, again resulted in victory for the visiting team for the fourth time this year. Boca Juniors won 2-1 to go ahead with 40 victories to River Plate's 39 (25 draws) in 104 meetings since professional soccer started in 1930.

Another curiosity is that while River Plate, this season's First Division champions and current section A leaders in the national championship, have carried all before them, they have been unable to beat Estudiantes de La Plata in four meetings this season. River Plate lost 2-1 at home in the most recent meeting, making it three wins for the La Plata team while the remaining match was drawn.

San Lorenzo's Scotta, the season's First Division top scorer, is heading the national championship table just as easily with 14 goals, followed by Brindisi (Huracan), Galletti (Estudiantes), Irigoyen (Argentinos), Kempes (Rosario Cent.) and Robles (Newell's OB) all with 10.

The closest fight has been in section D all along with four clubs within a point of each other — among them Temperley who had finished bottom of the First Division after only being promoted this season.

But at press time big clubs on the fringe of qualifying places (Huracan, Boca Juniors, Independiente) are pressing the Football Association to allow three instead of two clubs from each section into the final round and a bill has been presented in the Senate by a provincial senator requesting government intervention of the FA if it bows to the interests of big clubs and changes rules in mid-stream.

It could only happen in Argentina.

Argentina National Championship: Jorge scores for Racing in their 3-2 victory over Colon. Jorge, leading scorer at the time, was transferred to a Mexican club in October.

Roy Coyle, former Glentoran, Sheffield Wednesday and Grimsby Town midfield player now player-manager of Linfield.

Coyle's headache

IT HAS been, for new Linfield player-manager Roy Coyle, the most dismal of starts. Appointed to the toughest job in Irish League football just a matter of days before the start of the current battle for the title, the former Glentoran, Sheffield Wednesday, Grimsby Town and Northern Ireland midfielder had the nightmare experience of seeing the Championship holders struggle through their opening three games — two of them at home — without a win.

The strange sight of Linfield stuck at the bottom of the 12-team League didn't do frustrated Windsor Park fans any good and as the Blues, who have won the title no less than 30 times, moved into the usually hectic Christmas games there were mutterings against the appointment of Coyle to replace Billy Campbell who resigned shortly after the side's heavy European Cup defeat by PSV Eindhoven.

The truth of the matter is, however, that the present Linfield line-up just isn't good enough. With or without Coyle, who certainly cannot be blamed for the poor start, the team would struggle.

Coyle knows this himself: "The team was struggling a bit when I took over and their confidence had taken a knock. Before our opening League games the lads suffered a lot of tension; they were not as relaxed as they should have been, certainly not enough to produce the sort of football they were capable of. The confidence was missing and at the time I knew it would return only after a couple of good wins.

"We were playing what I'd call 'Hot potato' football, there was no real eagerness to use the ball; the lads seemed afraid to do what they were capable of doing."

This is Coyle's first taste of managership and though he has no real background apart from playing — formidable enough in itself — he brings to Linfield something more important in many ways than a slavish reliance on systems and chart-orientated football . . . he brings sheer enthusiasm.

by COLIN McALPIN

The start of his new career might have been horrible, but his joy at having been given the job is obvious: "It's the pinnacle of my career. To me, being appointed boss of Linfield is more important than moving from Glentoran to Sheffield Wednesday or my first 'cap'. When I was approached about the job I said 'Boy, what a job to have'. I'm really proud to have been considered for it and I want to do well for the sake of the club."

While the slim chance of retaining the title remains, Coyle is prepared to look further ahead; to the sort of football he wants his team to play.

He explains: "Good, entertaining football is essential. If I was a supporter I'd want to go to a game and see my team entertain and thrill. I want Linfield fans to talk about what they see us doing on a Saturday. I don't want them to go home and when they are asked about the game to simply reply 'Oh, we won 1-0'. I want them to remember every kick of the ball, every incident, every moment of drama. I want them to spend the week talking about what they saw us do and I want them to come back the following Saturday for more."

Coyle was something of a hard man in his Glentoran days. But having now joined the establishment has his attitude altered?

"Not really. I can't change my style of play. Of course, I've more responsibility now, but you don't stop to think about the way you are going to tackle a player. If you see a man coming at you with the ball you don't have time to reflect that now you are manager of Linfield you must approach the problem from a different position . . . no, you go for the ball through instinct."

His role now is often a lonely one. Being a full-time manager in a part-time League isn't easy: "It's a bit lonely and punishing at times. Punishing because after spending the early part of the morning doing the paperwork I have to go out and train alone. I find I'm probably training harder this way because I have nobody to judge myself against, doing training against the clock in an empty ground is very difficult."

But moving into administration has given him the knowledge that the set-up at Linfield is first class: "The set-up at Windsor Park is terrific, there's no other word for it. I've known clubs in England — First and Second Division — that don't begin to compare with Linfield. I'll be honest and say that if Linfield moved to the English League they wouldn't be out of place. Everything here is first rate."

The future for Roy Coyle is, to say the least, uncertain. He is manager now of a club whose fans expect constant success as their natural right, and for the moment he has not the playing strength capable of providing it. But he is too good a player and potentially too good a manager to be stuck at the bottom for long.

by Arthur Rotmil

After a long illness Gerd Muller is back in training and hopes to return to the Bayern Munich team in the New Year.

Heynckes vital goal

A GOAL by Jupp Heynckes in the 65th minute gave West Germany a welcome and deserved 1-0 win over a well organised and durable Bulgarian team. A capacity crowd of 73,000 in Stuttgart's Neckar-Stadion greeted with relief the collection of two points, which virtually assure the Germans of winning their European Championship group. The holders need only to draw with Malta on February 28, in Dortmund, to reach the quarter-finals.

After the elimination of England, who hoped to stage the finals, the Germans, having applied together with Belgium and Yugoslavia may well be asked to host the decisive tournament — provided of course they reach the last four.

In the light of recent controversy in England over the preparation of the national side, it is worth noting that the Germans did not have any special training period for this so vital international. The full *Bundesliga* programme was duly completed on Saturday, November 15 — just like in England, prior to their match v Portugal, which sparked off the discussions over the inadequate time allotted to the England manager Don Revie and his squad. Like their English counterparts, the German players met on Sunday and played Bulgaria, after being together for just three days.

Average age

For this game Germany's team chief Helmut Schön selected a midfield trio composed entirely of Borussia Mönchengladbach players: Wimmer, Stielike and Danner. With Vogts and Heynckes also in the side, the champion club thus provided five men. But this was in fact the oldest German team for 30 years — the average age was 28 and five months!

This choice was preceded by a startling and controversial omission of the Spain-based stars Netzer and Breitner. Apparently, Schön would have included both in his squad, but he claims to have received a letter from their Club, Real Madrid, in which it is suggested that Breitner should be allowed to rest and treat a muscle injury.

Schön then decided to leave both players out, but they in turn became terribly upset; first Netzer and then Breitner declared, they will never again play for the national team! Breitner even gave the Press a rather different version of his exchanges with the manager, so that the whole affair had left a bad taste and it certainly brings the international careers of these stars at least to a temporary halt.

After the international Herr Schön said of the incident: "The subject of Netzer and Breitner is like yesterday's snow. Let's forget it and start looking into the future."

Meanwhile in Stuttgart the Germans had some problems in attack, where Hölzenbein is not a striker. Beer failed to live up to his finishing power (he leads the *Bundesliga* scorers list) and only Heynckes obliged with a solitary, but golden goal which assured victory and the quarter-final qualification. But the scoring attempts apart, for most experts present, this display was a great improvement and some even claimed it was Germany's best since the World Cup final.

The next assignment against Malta should be a formality, but it must be obvious that in order to succeed again in the European Championship manager Schön must still keep looking for men who can score goals at the highest level. A friendly match against Turkey in Ankara on December 20, could provide him with a chance of making experiments.

In the championship title holders Borussia Mönchengladbach have opened up a three-point gap at the top, and with only one game left before the half way mark can claim the unofficial title of "Wintermeisters." Whilst the nearest challengers Hamburger SV and Eintracht Brunswick continue to drop points, Borussia clearly the best German team at present, are now firmly installed as favourites to retain their crown.

And after their splendid victory over Italy's champions Juventus in the European Cup, the Gladbacher are strongly fancied to follow up last year's triumph in the UEFA Cup, by winning the major prize this time.

Bayern Munich, who like Borussia have also reached the quarter-finals of the Champions Cup, collapsed in the League sensationally by 6-0 to Cup holders Eintracht Frankfurt (also quarter-finalists in Europe), and are still frantically searching all over Europe for a striker. Gerd Müller and Uli Hoeness, it will be remembered both badly injured, are still out of action.

Time is getting desperately short for Bayern who wanted to sign a player before December 15, so he could be eligible for the next round of the European Cup, or at least before December 31, for after that date a new player cannot take part in the current *Bundesliga* championship. And Bayern badly need cash, either, from the international tournament, and from League gates, which only a successful team can guarantee.

The Munich club even got into hot water in Scotland, where they had apparently made an illegal approach to Motherwell's and the League's top scorer Willie Pettigrew. I personally warned Bayern's chief scout, that he must first contact the club, but apparently Bayern's assistant manager Werner Olk, who watched Pettigrew k.o. Celtic at Parkhead with two goals, in their 2-0 win, went beyond his instructions. Now the Scottish club have complained to the SFA, who in turn have asked the German Football Federation to investigate the matter!

KEIR RADNEDGE on ITALY

WHAT WENT WRONG WITH CAPPELLINI?

REMEMBER Renato Cappellini? No? Then let me refresh your memory. You remember, no doubt, Celtic beating Internazionale to win the 1967 Champions' Cup. You remember that Inter scored first through a Sandro Mazzola penalty.

Well, Cappellini was the young centre forward tipped over by John Craig to provide that spot kick.

At that time he was 23 years old and great things were expected. He was one of Helenio Herrera's favourites, he had just been chosen for the *Azzurri*. He was strong, he was quick and he had a good shot. He'd taken over the No. 9 shirt so successfully, dovetailed so well with Mazzola and Luis Suarez, that Inter saw no need to hang on to Joaquin Peiro.

A young man with a fine future. So what went wrong?

That defeat by Celtic was, of course, the first blow. It meant that Inter were out of the Champions Cup and that, in turn, meant the break-up of a great team. Giulio Sarti retired, skipper Armando Sarti was transferred after a row with Herrera, Aristide Guarneri went to Bologna, Jair went back to Brazil, Suarez to Sampdoria, president Angelo Moratti retired, and HH himself went on to Roma.

Schedule

Cappellini stayed just one year more, then went to Varese and in 1969 rejoined Herrera at Roma. The two had always had an affinity. Herrera it was who had pushed Cappellini through a punishing training schedule when it seemed the young man's career had been ruined — virtually before it started — by illness.

Five years Cappellini was at Roma, scoring 23 goals in his 97 league games. But he lacked the necessary class and after Herrera, his protector, went, and Pierino Prati arrived from Milan, it was all over. He went to Fiorentina, and sat out a year on the reserves' bench. Then, in the summer of 1974, he joined Como in the second division.

It looked like the classic slide down through the league to oblivion. Instead Como, whose last appearance in *Serie A* was 1952-53, came through on the post to make sure of promotion in the last game, beating rivals Verona 2-0. Cappellini got both goals to finish the club's top scorer, on nine.

Now, as I write, Como are fourth from bottom of *Serie A* and, with Cagliari, Fiorentina and Lazio the clubs beneath them, their chances of staying up look slim. They've won only one game too — but what a victory that was, above all for Cappellini.

The visitors were Inter, and they had the better of the game too, until the 53rd minute. It was then that right back Roberto Melgrati moved upfield for the first time in the match and slung the ball across the Inter penalty box.

It was a centre released more in hope than judgment. After all, Graziano Bini, Inter's stopper, has a good four inches on Cappellini. But . . . Bini was feeling the effects of a back injury. Consequently Cappellini went up unchallenged, and the ball ricocheted past Roberto Vieri off the crossbar.

'Incredible'

Twenty minutes to go, Melgrati hit the second, and with eight minutes left Cappellini was allowed another free header — this time to a Jachini corner — and Vieri was beaten a third time.

"Incredible, incredible," said Beppone Chiappella afterwards, his arms falling in all directions: "To lose like that in a game we could have won two or three nil."

Hardly the ideal way to welcome president Ivanoe Fraizzoli back out of hospital. "Only once," he said, "have I ever bought a player for Inter off my own bat and that was Doldi, who did quite well. All the rest of the time I've taken the manager's advice. And yet we lose to Torino and they say it's my fault. We lose at Como and they say again, it's my fault. I'm fed up with it all."

Puppet

Things aren't going any better at Milan, where Gianni Rivera has settled on Bruno Pardi as puppet president. The same day Inter were going down at Como, the *Rossoneri* were losing 1-0 at home to Juventus. The goal didn't come until quarter of an hour from the end, scored by Bobo Gori, the former Inter man who so nearly went to Milan from Cagliari during the summer.

It wasn't much of a game for the 80,000 who packed San Siro — both sides were more intent in stifling the opposition than launching their own attacks. What probably settled the result were two injuries. Milan lost *libero* Maurizio Turone early on (torn ligaments) after a foul by Marco Tardelli, and then Aldo Bet needed three stitches and a massive bandage round his head after Pietro Anastasi caught him with an overhead scissors kick.

Milan claimed that Tardelli should have been sent off — he'd earlier brutally flattened Gianni Rivera, one of Milan's better players along with veteran full back Angelo Anquilletti.

Bad day for Milano — good day for Turin. Torino won as well, to continue on the fringe of the title race, beating Napoli 3-1 thanks to two goals from Paolino Pulici. The second, putting Torino back ahead after Beppe Savoldi's equaliser, raised a howl of protect.

Quite clearly Pulici leapt above the Napoli defence and punched the ball past Pietro Carnignani. Everyone in the Stadio Municipale saw it, except referee Domenico Serafino. Not that it would have made any difference ultimately — Napoli substitute Luigi Punziano had only been on the field ten munites when he put through his own goal late in the game.

The Italy-Holland European Championship clash meant that the league 'broke' for a fortnight and on the resumption it was Juventus who got a nasty shock. Cesena were 2-0 up against the champions at half-time, *in Turin*. Fabio Capello, who had hit the winner against Holland, pulled one back. Roberto Bettega got a second, Carlo Petrini *put Cesena back ahead*, and it wasn't until nine minutes from time that marauding defender Claudio Gentile saved the Zebras. Napoli took advantage to creep within a point of Juve at the top, beating Milan 1-0 with a Savoldi goal, and the world's most expensive player has now hit seven in seven league games.

That result hasn't done anything to improve the atmosphere at Milanello where *tecnico consigliere* Nereo Rocco and skipper Romeo Benetti have been having their differences.

Benetti, incidentally, has just set up in business as a wine merchant. Pity he and his team-mates haven't much to celebrate.

TIP-BITS

LUIS SUAREZ coached Internazionale last season. Last spring Ivanoe Fraizzoli told the Spaniard that he had every confidence in him and that he wasn't to worry about his job. Some vote of confidence . . . Inter sacked him in the summer.

Now Luisito can't say he hasn't been warned. His present club, Cagliari, bottom of the first division, have just published a statement that they have 'every confidence in our manager.'

Watch this space.

Cuellar of a Mexican national eleven pictured trying to score in a match against Lazio in Rome's Olympic Stadium. Paolo and Luciano (right) are the Lazio players. The Mexican side won 1-0.

Facchetti will stop

IT SHOULD come as some sort of relief to Don Revie and England's prospective World Cup forwards to know that Giacinto Facchetti's 12-year stint in the Italian defence is virtually at an end.

Who says so? Facchetti himself, would you believe, just before winning his 83rd cap — a record — in the 1-0 European Championship win over Holland in Rome's Olympic stadium.

"Every time I'm picked now I think it's for the last time," said Inter's 33-year-old full back turned sweeper. "For the past five or six games I've thought I could be out. Instead, I'm still hanging on. Well, football's like that, you can't plan very much. But certainly, one day or another soon, I'll have to step down. I'm only 33 and I reckon I *could* go on until I'm 40 — but it's only right that *La Nazionale* should think about replacing me."

Facchetti made his *Azzuri* debut in the 1-0 win over Turkey in Istanbul on March 27, 1963. So who better qualified to talk about Italy's World Cup chances than a man who has played in three final series and captained the 1970 runners-up?

Most of the *Azzuri* reaction has been optimistic, but Facchetti the realist introduced a note of caution.

"I would rather we'd been drawn against some of the other seeded teams than face England. They're capable of beating any team in the world. If the English get their game together they can beat the Poles, the Dutch, the West Germans . . ."

Azzurri overlord Fulvio Bernardini was much more hopeful — but then that's his job.

"We were bound to face a strong team," he said. "And we'll take England as we would have taken Czechoslovakia or Spain. Others have had tougher draws — like Holland, who play Belgium."

Experience

Luxembourg wouldn't worry Italy or England, thought Bernardini, and "we have played Finland recently in the European Championship so we know then well and that experience will be important.

"But England don't scare us. They're on their way back to the top, just as we are, and we will have to fight it out. Don't forget though, that in the European Championship we have had to face the Dutch and the Poles. If we can just do well here against Holland we'll show we're really making progress." And that is just what the *Azzuri* did.

The 0-0 draw in Poland had shown that the defence was settling down after a year of experiments. The question now was, could the *Azzuri* attack get going at last?

No simple answer. They created quite a number of chances, with Fabio Capello in superb form, cutting out Wim Suurbier and Rudi Krol with some tremendous angled passes. But the execution left a lot to be desired. Beppe Savoldi may have cost Napoli £1.2 million, but he missed several openings a man of his value should bury. Paolino Pulici may be the league's top scorer, but he too looked out of step.

Defensive

At least Bernadini and Enzo Bearzot went into this game with three strikers. Franco Causio was the third, and it was his free kick which Capello headed in for the winner after 20 minutes. The dull defensive Dutchmen went on to the quarter finals of course on goal difference. But at least they had the grace to leave with an apology.

"I'm sorry for the fans," said manager Georg Knobel. "They were right to jeer us. But we achieved our aim, which was to qualify. What we were chiefly interested in was not losing 4-0 and this we succeeded in doing, even if it was at the expense of entertainment."

The Italians, naturally, did appreciate that Barcelona wouldn't release Johan Neeskens, and that Johan Cruyff was under a one-match UEFA suspension. But no matter. What was important for morale was that Italy won, and didn't play too badly either.

Facchetti or no Facchetti, they'll make it tough for England.

IT'S ALL over for Mariolino Corso. The 34-year-old former Inter left-winger was just starting yet another comeback with Genoa after breaking a leg for the second time when he went into a tackle in a kickabout . . and broke it again.

TWO ODD moments for Sandro Mazzola in Inter's 3-0 win over Verona. His 74th-minute goal was his first in San Siro in the league for almost three years. And, at the final whistle, referee Gianfranco Menegali came running after the Inter skipper, to ask for his autograph . . . for a little boy back in Rome.

WORLD CU

an assessment by ERIC BATTY

FORGIVE ME for being cynical, but unless FIFA invite me to personally conduct their World Cup draw (unlikely I agree) nothing will convince me that the pulling of numbers out of a hat or whatever isn't a charade. The groupings for the 1978 finals do nothing to diminish my suspicions.

For a start, there can be no disputing that the qualifying groups for the South American countries were not fixed. At a meeting in Cochabamba, Bolivia, nearly two months before the FIFA World Cup draw, the South American Confederation put forward their proposed 'draw' which was fiercely contested by representatives of some of the smaller countries. They felt so strongly that the draw was leaked to the Press. South Americans not being as tight-lipped and disciplined as their European counterparts.

Rijsbergen of Holland

Example

Imagine Ted Croker rocking the boat by announcing that they knew in advance that England would be playing Italy, Finland and Luxembourg! Or that England would be playing in Guadalajara (back in 1970) against Brazil, Czechoslovakia, etc., etc.

Let me make it clear that I don't mind at all if FIFA, EUFA or the English FA *fix* Cup draws if it is good for the game. If, for example, Israel can be accommodated without having mass withdrawals from Arab countries — and previously if East Germany could have taken part despite the refusal of NATO countries to give their team entry visas. I don't mind that at all but what I do dislike is having officials think they are deceiving us all. If it's all arranged let them admit it and not call it a draw.

What cannot be denied is that I read the South American Confederation's proposed draw weeks before FIFA made it official:

Group 1. Brazil, Paraguay, Columbia.
Group 2. Uruguay, Bolivia, Venezuela.
Group 3. Chile, Peru, Eduoador.

And that is *exactly* how the *'draw'* came out. Really it is too much of a co-incidence.

No deception

FIFA and all the other ruling bodies should announce once and for all that Cup ties are *arranged* in the best interests of the game and those taking part . . . and then there would be no deception, and I would have nothing to complain about.

There is another point on which I firmly disagree with FIFA — the method they admit to using in *seeding* what are reckoned to be the strongest countries. Very simply, the teams that qualified for the 1970 competition in Mexico were declared the seeded countries for the 1974 World Cup qualifying competition. Thus it was that we found Belgium, seeded in one group with Holland who had no previous form in the World Cup.

Similarly, England were seeded in another group with Poland as make-weights, totally ignoring the fact that they were currently the strongest of all the East European teams, and took on England as Olympic Champions.

Just how badly the seeding policy worked out was underlined in the 1974 series when Holland took second place and Poland third . . . both having come through from unseeded positions.

The result of all this — making the 1974 qualifiers the 1978 'seeds' is that we now have some very curious groups, and many in which the relative strength of the participants is much higher than the 'seeds' in some other groups.

For example, on current form there is not one of Europe's top nine teams in World Cup qualifying groups 3, 5 and 6. In **group 3**, East Germany play against Austria, Turkey and Malta. Admittedly the East Germans did well in 1974 and will **probably** qualify again, largely because they have been placed in an easy group.

Group 5 provides an even more outragous example in the seeding of Bulgaria who have qualified for every tournament since 1962, largely because as a seeded country they have been fortunate to find themselves with relatively weak opposition.

Open group

This time I would go no further than say that Bulgaria 'might' qualify but this is one of the most open groups of all, along with **group 6**. Here we have Sweden, the 'seeds' playing against Switzerland and Norway. Again Sweden 'might' qualify but in both cases this will only be because they have been seeded and fortunately placed in weak groups.

To probe a little further we find Czechoslovakia, admittedly no great team themselves but nevertheless one of the last eight in the current European championship, placed in a group in which Scotland are seeded. Wales are also there to make up the weight and though they qualified in the European championship — similar situation (placed in a very poor group) — they definitely will not survive and play in the finals of 1978.

Perhaps the toughest group in EUROPE IS Group 8 with Yugoslavia, Spain and Rumania and here I wouldn't be surprised if all three won their home matches and it was settled on goal difference.

Curious groupings

A final thought — if it was necessary, as apparently it was, to obtain common accord between Europe and South America over the number of qualifiers each continent should have — remembering that the Soviet Union as group winners in 1974 were scheduled to play home and away games with Chile — should it not have been some other country asked to do this for 1978? Why pick on the Russians again?

Elsewhere there are some curious groupings. England and Italy with Italy the seeded country . . . at a time when they can hardly do anything right. This is not to say that by the time the games come around they will not have solved some of their problems but the fact is that this group contains two of world football's leading countries of the past who have both fallen on hard times and in my opinion, on current form *neither of them should have been seeded.*

It also seems entirely wrong to me that some countries who were brought together to contest

CUP DRAW

EUROPE

Group 1: Poland, Portugal, Denmark, Cyprus; Group 2: Italy, England, Finland, Luxembourg; Group 3: E. Germany, Austria, Turkey, Malta; Group 4: Holland, Belgium, N. Ireland, Iceland; Group 5: Bulgaria, France, Eire; Group 6: Sweden, Switzerland, Norway; Group 7: Scotland, Czechoslovakia, Wales; Group 8: Yugoslavia, Spain, Rumania; Group 9: Russia, Hungary, Greece.

Group winners qualify for finals, except winners of Group 9 who play a South American side for a place in the Finals.

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1: Brazil, Paraquay, Colombia; Group 2: Uruquay, Bolivia, Venezuela; Group 3: Chile, Peru, Ecuador.

Winning teams play a round robin. Best two qualify for finals. Third plays winner of Europe, Group 9.

NORTH AMERICAN—CARIBBEAN

Group 1: Canada, Mexico, USA; Group 2: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama; Group 3: Nether-Antilles, Barbados, Cuba, Guyana, Haiti.

Winners play off for finals place.

ASIA

Group 1: Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand; Group 2: Israel, Japan, N. Korea, S. Korea; Group 3: Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria; Group 4: Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Republic, Qatar; Group 5: Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan.

Winners play off for finals place.

AFRICA

Group 1: Algeria, Libya; Group 2: Morocco, Tunisia; Group 3: Ghana, Guinea; Group 4: Senegal, Togo; Group 5: Zaire Central African Emirates; Group 6: Winner of Sierra Leone v Niger, Nigeria; Group 7: Congo, Cameroun; Group 8: Winner of Upper Volta v Mauretania, Ivory Coast; Group 9: Egypt, Ethiopia; Group 10: Sudan, Kenya; Group 11: Uganda, Tanzania; Group 12: Zambia, Malawi.

The winners of each pair of groups (e.g. 1 and 2, 3 and 4) will play each other and the winners will play again when three teams are left—one each from groups 1-4, 5-8 and 9-12 they will play off for the finals place.

W. Germany (holders) and Argentina (hosts) automatically qualify for finals.

Carlos Babbington of Argentina

places for 1974 should again be in opposition. Scotland and Czechoslovakia are just one example; Yugoslavia and Spain are another but the worst blunder of all in my view is bringing together Holland and Belgium in the same qualifying group as they were for 1974.

In that qualifying competition Belgium equalled Holland's total number of points but were eliminated on goals difference . . . while Holland went on to reach the World Cup final. Belgium clearly could consider themselves hard done by, not to have qualified at all. Now they are placed in exactly the same position.

Comparison

Finally just for the same of comparison let us look at the 1978 World Cup qualifying groups and consider how many of the seeded countries have qualified in the 1976 European championship and reached the last eight. Though Wales are in there simply because they were drawn in an easy group it is the only real guide to current form at the time of FIFA's bungling. See how it works out:

World Cup seeded countries:
Poland: Failed to qualify for 1976.
Italy: Failed to qualify for 1976.
East Germany: Failed to qualify for 1976.
Bulgaria: Unlikely to qualify for 1976.
Scotland: Failed to qualify for 1976.

Coincidence

Of the seeded teams in Europe only Holland, Yugoslavia and Russia have qualified and on current form deserve to be seeded. By coincidence all three teams are either entirely new or largely rebuilt since 1974 . . . even Holland if one considers the home game versus Holland and away match versus Italy overall.

One final thought on fate and fortune. With the form book thrown upside down in South America and West Germany struggling to beat teams like Greece and apparently quite unable to find a goalscoring centre forward, it is just as well for Argentina and West Germany that the host country and the holders of the trophy qualify automatically, for it looks extremely doubtful if either of them would get through in open competition.

Caution

Knowing from correspondence that there are some betting men who take my tips, let me offer a word of caution. I am not yet convinced by any means that the competition is finally going to be staged in Argentina, whatever FIFA and the AFA may say in their official handouts.

If Argentina fails to stage the series then Brazil (through the FIFA President), Spain, as the 1982 hosts, West Germany, with everything left over since 1974, and Holland, who as a small compact country would get my vote, would all be contenders. My advice: wait and see where the finals really will be before you move.

Hot favourites

Argentina home will inevitably be very different from Argentina away and unless the competition is staged in South America I cannot see any country from that continent reaching the final, let alone winning the trophy. And if the series is held in Europe, then as we have always seen in the past, the home country always has an edge. Holland playing in Argentina might be a good outside bet at around 20 to 1; but they would be red hot favourites at home, particularly if Cruyff changes his mind and decided to play. Clearly we must wait and see.

All we can do for the moment is hazard a guess at who will come thought from Africa and whether Isreal has rebuilt her team again and is strong enough to fight off several improving countries. In South America, Brazil should qualify but the other two look less sure to me. Chile being very hard pressed by Peru and Uruguay, totally pathetic at the moment, likely to fall to anyone.

Most of the action is however in Europe and at a quick guess I would say that Poland ought to qualify if they quickly replace key men. England could qualify. East Germany will have only themselves to blame if they don't and the Holland versus Belgium tussle should lead to a more open battle in the key games this time than two 0-0 draws as in the 1974 . . . please note Mr. Goethals.

Bulgaria will probably sneak in . . . and then do nothing; Sweden should get through if they have their stars back. Russia should go through and there will be eager battles between Scotland and the Czechs; Yugoslavia, Spain and Rumania.

What happened to individuals?

by PAUL RADFORD

WHERE HAVE all the great British players gone? Gone into retirement, every one . . . or, at least, that's the way it seems.

After deciding to avoid the pitfalls and sleers of football management, the former Scottish international has gone into the carpet manufacturing business, which he says he is learning from the bottom up.

When Denis Law, the erstwhile King of Old Trafford, followed Bobby Charlton and George Best into retirement eighteen months ago, the game lost a great character and a great entertainer.

Law's greatest asset was his individuality — his ability to do the unexpected. And at a time when British clubs and national teams are going through a particularly unsuccessful period in international competition, it might be an opportune time to examine Law's view — that Britain is killing the game by placing too much emphasis on tactics and work rate and not enough on individual expression.

It's no surprise that Law's favourite players are two of the few remaining individuals in the game — his former Manchester City colleague, Rodney Marsh, and Stan Bowles of Queen's Park Rangers.

"I think if people are honest, they would have to admit that the game lacks players of this type," Law says. "The problem is that entertainers are just not wanted. Managers just want work rate now, but work rate is rubbish. Some of the greatest players, like Greaves, Puskas, Baxter, didn't have work rate."

Decline

Law traces the decline of British individualism back to the 1966 World Cup. "England's win was the greatest thing for our football at the time. But I think Ramsey's system was wrong in the long run. The absence of wingers has left centre-forwards with nothing to feed on."

Law also regrets that the Ramsey pattern of football has filtered down through the clubs right into schoolboy football.

Now 35, Law still possesses that thin, wiry frame which once had him described as "looking more like a coat-hanger than a footballer. "One the field he had dynamism, showmanship and arrogance. Off the field he is the same . . . but with no trace of arrogance.

Interviewing Law is like trying to mark him on a football field. A journalist has as much chance of asking him a question as a defender has of getting in a tackle. Law bubbles along and then pauses for breath just long enough to tempt the journalist into committing himself to a question. But Law is too quick, bursting through into another torrent of personal reflections and opinions, leaving the journalist floundering. Off the field he's still sheer entertainment.

Since retiring, Law's break from the game has been complete. "I don't miss the game a lot. The way I look at it one life is over and another is beginning. Memories don't pay the bills."

Law's memories may not pay the bills, but they certainly are food for thought. European Footballer of the Year in 1964, two championship medals, a cup-winners medal, more than 200 league goals and a record 55 appearances and 30 goals for Scotland.

One of the few players to have appeared for both Manchester clubs, United and City, Law has a stock answer when asked where his sympathies lie. "My loyalty is to the city of Manchester," he says. "I intend to stay there the rest of my life — I really love the place."

On alternate weekends he can be seen in the stands of Old Trafford and Maine Road.

Nevertheless, he still worries about the state of the game. "I've always said that English football is getting too defensive. There are too many people frightened of defeat. Strikers are worth their weight in gold these days because good ones are going to get so many knocks."

Because playing striker is now so tough, Law believes most schoolboys now want to be midfield players. "That's why there are no more Jimmy Greaveses in England. Greaves and I were never really rivals as some people thought, we were a different type of player. Greaves was ice-cool in the box and I was more of a hustler-bustler."

Denis Law was a lot more than that, too. That's why he's so sorely missed in British football today.

Denis Law came out of retirement for one night to play in the Paddy Crerand testimonial match at Old Trafford. Pictured is the 1968 Manchester United squad. Back row left to right: David Herd, David Sadler, Alex Stepney, Pat Crerand, Shay Brennan, Brian Kidd, Francis Burns and Sir Matt Busby. Front row: Bobby Charlton, Nobby Stiles, Denis Law, Tony Dunne and George Best.

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NIKOLAI VAEDING reports from Oslo, Norway

STAVANGER WIN TITLE YET AGAIN

THE FOOTBALL season in Norway ended with Viking Stavanger as the champions for the fourth time in succession. They had as usual a very impressive home record with only one defeat and one draw from 11 games, and away they were always a hard side to beat.

Their main strength is their defence dominated by their two veterans, sweeper and captain Reidar Geo and left-back Sighjlen Slinning. The key player in the Viking side, however, is the midfield general Svein Kvia. He is also the captain of the national team. Their strikers didn't score as many goals as they should, but most times they did enough to secure both points.

Brann Bergen surprisingly took second place when they beat Rosenborg of Trondheim 2-0 in the last round in front of 14,600 spectators. Rosenborg had looked likely champions themselves for a while, but they lost their chance when they could only draw 3-3 with Viking at home on Lerkendal Stadium. Now they had to be content with fourth place, but they can consider themselves desperately unlucky as they were only one goal away from second place.

At the half-way-stage it looked as if newly promoted Lillestrom would be the new champions, but then their star striker Tom Lund was injured, and they could only take eight points from their last 11 games. At the bottom of the table it was a disasterous year for football in Oslo with both the two remaining teams, Skeid and Valerengen, being relegated.

Skeid were by many people (including myself!) tipped to be champions this year after their fine cup victory in 1974. What a difference a year can make! Now the capital will be without first division teams next season. Newly promoted Os, who went from the third division to the first in just two seasons, proved to be much too weak and ended up without winning a single match.

New in the first division next season will be Bryne, Hamarkameratene and Vard. Top scorer was Arne Dokken of Strömsgodset who hit 18 goals.

The Cup was won most deservedly by Bodö-Glimt from Bodö. In the final they beat Vard Haugesund by 2-0 in front of a 23,000 crowd. This is the first time a team from Northern Norway has won the cup. On their way to the final they eliminated three first division sides; Skeid, Viking and Start. They are currently in the second division, but they are certainly good enough for the first.

Their star player is the former Lyn Oslo and FC den Haag midfielder Harald Berg. Berg, who was such a success during his four year spell in Dutch football, has won 41 caps for his country, and he would still be an automatic choice if he only was interested in playing. At 34 he is by many still reckoned to be the best footballer in this country, and he is without doubt one of the greatest players of all time in Norway.

In the European competitions none of the four clubs progressed to the next round. Champions Viking was knocked out by RWD Molenbeek of Belgium by 4-2 on aggregate after going down only 3-2 in Belgium.

For the national team it was another unsuccessful season. At the end of it the record read: Played 10, Won 2, Draw 2, Lost 6. The two victories were achieved against Finland away by 5-3 and against Iceland in Bergen by 3-2. The heaviest defeat was by Russia in Moscow by 4-0. Odd Iversen of Rosenborg is without doubt the best player in the air in this country, and he has a cracking shot as well. It is a mystery to me why he hasn't been selected.

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Floodlights fail—Final is abandoned

FOLLOWING TWO dramatic and controversial games against Argentina and Mexico, Canada withdrew from the Pan American Games soccer competition in Mexico with two games left to play.

Canada opened its schedule playing in a group with Jamaica and Argentina and even though they could only tie 0-0 with Jamaica and were defeated 2-0 by Argentina qualified for the final rounds by virtue of having a better goal average than the Jamaicans.

However, after dominating the game against Jamaica and failing to take advantage of their superiority, the Canadians ran into serious problems against Argentina. During this game the old problem of rule interpretation raised its head and as a result Canada had two players — Carl Rose and Gary Ayre — sent off for what the Canadian players claim were minor offences.

After the game Canadian centre back Kevin Grant, a veteran of 21 international appearances, said: "As a result of the interpretations of the referee we were eventually afraid to go into a tackle for fear of being sent off." As it was the Nicaraguan referee allowed the game to get completely out of control and scuffles broke out as the players left the field.

Subsequently the diciplinary committee suspended Rose for three games and Ayre for one, but shortly before the game with Mexico in the first game of the final group the Canadians were informed that in addition two other players, Ray Telford and Robin Megraw, were also suspended for three games each as a result of their actions in the Argentina game.

Canadian coach Colin Morris and manager Bill Thomson protested that neither of the latter players had even been cautioned in the Argentinian game and accused the Pan American tournament organisers of managing the competition unfairly. Even more puzzling was the fact that the referees committee suspended the Nicaraguan referee Senor Valentin Gazo Alvarez for his incompetence in handling the Canada-Argentina game and yet allowed the suspensions to stand.

Canadian international goalkeeper Jack Brand of Toronto Metros Croatia

Sent-off

But this was not the end of Canada's troubles by any means for the uproar prior to the Mexican game was bound to have a psychological effect on the Canadian players even though it was decided to ignore the suspensions of Telford and Megraw and play them. Then on top of all this another Canadian player Jim McDonald was sent off in the opening minutes with the Canadians claiming that a Mexican player took a dive resulting in a penalty kick and McDonald's ejection.

After this the Canadians stumbled on to be humiliated by the Mexicans to the tune of 8-0. With four players under suspension following the Mexican game and with captain and key midfield player Jim Douglas suffering from torn knee ligaments and a shoulder separation as a result of a tackle in the Argentina match, the Canadians were now down to just 12 players (out of the 17 permitted) and one of them the back up goalkeeper as they approached their game with Costa Rica. As the suspensions were to last until the end of the tournament that Canadians would also have only 12 players for their final game with Cuba.

At this point it was decided to withdraw with Canadian coach Colin Morris saying: "On the advice of our team doctor we simply

COLIN JOSE reports

can't go into two international matches with 12 players, two of them goalkeepers.

In between these two events John McMahon the man who had been the driving force behind the Canadian national team since 1971 was removed from office, coach Eckhard Krautzun resigned and then Canada entered a tough series of games in the Montreal International Competitions with just six days in training camp.

Outclassed

Canada were outclassed in games with Poland and East Germany but regained some prestige in two improved performances against a Hungarian team largely made up of players from their successful Under-23 team. Following these six games coach Bill McAllister newly appointed before the series started, resigned and his place was taken by one of his assistants Colin Morris, for the Pan American Games.

In addition to all this Canada's first ever entry in the CONCACAF Club Championship was ignominously booted out of the competition after a riot in Toronto during which the fans and players of the Canadian team attacked the visiting Mexicans.

Abandoned

If the progress made by Canada from 1971 until the end of the European tour in the fall of 1974 had been continued then Canada would have been a contender for the Pan American title. As it was no one actually won the Pan American title for with Brazil and Mexico meeting in the Azteca Stadium before over 100,000 people and the game in extra time with the score 1-1, the lights went out, and the game had to be abandoned.

No doubt the Mexicans hoped to have the game replayed when they would have been at full strength, two of their players having been sent off and suspended in the game prior to the final. But the Brazilians didn't give them the chance leaving for home shortly after the game.

Now Canada is left to pick up the pieces with the 1976 Olympic Games just over the horizon, games in which it was hoped and planned that Canada would put on a first class display something that is sorely needed to improve the very tarnished image the game has always had and continues to have in this country. Except that is for those few bright years from 1971 to 1974.

Between now and the Olympics most of the Canadian players will be located in Vancouver and playing under Colin Morris. In their games against Jamaica and Argentina they did well enough to indicate that the potential is there to put on a first class show in Montreal come July, even if the lights did go out in Mexico in more ways than one.

PAN-AMERICAN GAMES

GROUP ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	2	2	0	0	9	2	4
Trinidad-Tobago	2	1	0	1	2	6	2
Estados	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Results: Mexico 6, Trinidad 1; Mexico 3, Estados Unidos 1; Trinidad 1, Estados Unidos 0.

GROUP TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	2	2	0	0	8	0	4
Canada	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Jamaica	2	0	1	1	0	6	1

Results: Canada 0, Jamaica 0; Argentina 6, Jamaica 0; Argentina 2, Canada 0.

GROUP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cuba	2	1	1	0	4	1	3
Bolivia	2	1	0	1	1	3	2
Uruguay	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Results: Cuba 1, Uruguay 1; Cuba 3, Bolivia 0; Bolivia 1, Uruguay 0.

GROUP FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	3	0	0	19	1	6
Costa Rica	3	1	1	1	6	4	3
El Salvador	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Nicaragua	3	0	0	3	2	23	0

Results: Nicaragua 1, El Salvador 4; Brazil 3, Costa Rica 1; Costa Rica 5, Nicaragua 1; Brazil 2, El Salvador 0; El Salvador 0, Costa Rica 0; Brazil 14, Nicaragua 0.

SEMI FINALS

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	3	2	1	0	17	2	5
Costa Rica	3	2	0	1	4	7	4
Cuba	3	1	1	1	5	3	3
Canada	3	0	0	3	2	15	0

Results: Costa Rica 1, Cuba 0; Mexico 8, Canada 0; Mexico 2, Cuba 2; Costa Rica 3, Canada 0 (default); Cuba 3, Canada 0 (default); Mexico 7, Costa Rica 0.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	13	0	5
Argentina	3	2	1	0	9	1	5
Bolivia	3	1	0	2	3	11	2
Trinidad	3	0	0	3	2	15	0

Results: Brazil 6, Bolivia 0; Argentina 5, Trinidad-Tobago 1; Bolivia 3, Trinidad-Tobago 1; Brazil 0, Argentina 0; Argentina 4, Bolivia 0; Brazil 7, Trinidad-Tobago 0.

FINAL

Mexico 1, Brazil 1

(Match abandoned in extra time after floodlights failed)

THIRD/FOURTH PLACE

Argentina 2, Costa Rica 0

BOOK REVIEW

ALDERSHOT FOOTBALL CLUB has a special place in the hearts of some of the greatest players in the history of British football. Frank Swift, Andy Beattie, Stan Cullis, Cliff Britton, Joe Mercer, Tommy Lawton, Jimmy Hagan, Jack Rowley, to name but a few, all wore the colours of Aldershot during the War years when the club had some of its finest hours.

From a humble beginning in the Southern League forty-eight years ago Aldershot have established themselves in the Football League without ever getting beyond division three.

They have had their moments of glory, however, and the club's life-story is neatly chronicised in the History of Aldershot Football Club (F. K. S. Publishers Ltd, £2.50) by Jack Rollin.

Jack, a former Editor of World Soccer and a distinguished soccer journalist of high repute, has had affection for Aldershot since receiving an introduction to the club through his father – a professional soldier – during the War.

It makes entertaining reading, and not just to those who have some special regard for Aldershot Football Club. It will certainly bring back memories to the older fraternity and reveal much to soccer's more contemporary followers.

P.R.

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ALEX GORDON in Scotland

MAJOR CHANGES ARE EXPECTED

AMID THE debris and rubble of yet another fumbling failure from Scotland's international team there is the certainty that major changes — either on or off the field — are on the horizon.

Scotland's hopes of international success in the European Championship really lasted a lamentable 90 minutes — the first game against Spain at Hampden. That was the crucial match that mattered and when it came to the crunch we just couldn't find the energy, skill and resources that were needed. The Spaniards — not a very impressive outfit with few world class players — came to Hampden, saw and conquered.

Even the marvellous unexpected bonus of a first minute goal from Joe Jordan in Madrid couldn't inspire the team to revenge. Spain were allowed back into the game, forced a draw and were delighted with themselves for taking three out of a possible four points from the Scots. Willie Ormond's men — like England — had to rely on the result of another country for a chance of qualifying.

Scotland needed Rumania to beat Spain in Bucharest to give them a chance. The Rumanians showed as many flaws as Scotland had done against the Spaniards in their home tie. Spain broke well, scored two goals and were content with a 2-2 draw at the end of the day.

Technique

Scotland lacked initiative and invention in the European Championship. They had an abundance of players who hustled and bustled across the field, but very few who wanted to take the direct — and shortest — route to goal. Technique was also lacking and motivation was missing.

Now that Billy Bremner has kicked his last ball for his country Scotland will have to find a successor to take over as the on-the-field motivator. Scottish fans have moaned over the years that Bremner was never as good in the dark blue jersey as he was in the white of Leeds United. Bremner, though, did a magnificent job for Scotland and I'm certain his team-mates in the international sides would be the first to agree with that.

Now, after the boring and tiresome so-called Copenhagen Nightclub Incident, Bremner has, of course, been banned for life by the SFA along with Joe Harper (Hibs), Pat McCluskey (Celtic), Willie Young (Spurs) and Arthur Graham (Aberdeen). The SFA may well change that decision in the future, but by then it will be too late for Bremner.

Okay, who is good enough and big enough to take over Bremner's role in the Scottish team? Who can do the sort of job the Leeds dynamo carried out during the World Cup Finals? Two who immediately spring to mind are Derby's Archie Gemmill and Manchester City's Asa Hartford.

Dave Mackay certainly won't agree with me her, but I think Asa has the edge on Archie. I don't believe they can both play in the same team as their styles are fairly similar. Hartford really has more to offer Scotland. For a start he is younger. Gemmill didn't do his international cause any good when he stated before the Denmark game that he didn't really care about representing Scotland. Hardly the sort of attitude expected of a man who might take over from Bremner!

Knowledge

If Hartford is given time and responsibility I am certain he will break through to become a great international player. Don Revie gambled when he named Queen's Park Rangers' Gerry Francis as his new skipper. When it comes to out-and-out skill I don't think Francis can touch Hartford. However, Francis is happy in the knowledge that his is captain of his country and therefore certain of a place in the team so long as he is fit and performing consistently.

Francis has been criticised for lacking variation in his approach. He reminds me of former heavyweight champion Smokin' Joe Frazier with one subtle difference. Whereas Francis expends tireless energy working his way across the park, Frazier works and sweats his way towards his target.

No-one could ever accuse Hartford for lacking in talent and aggression. He is the sort of player who can fight and win the ball, run and chase as well as spray it around with impeccable accuracy. Hartford would take care of the on-the-field motivation, but who is the man to do the job OFF the park?

Willie Ormond may well be wondering about the answer to that question, too! It seems likely that Scotland will have a new manager before the 1978 World Cup. Already there is talk about gearing everything towards success in the premier tournament and that, of course, means being able to knock out the formidable duo of Czechoslovakia and Wales. Even the Home International Championships will be used as a launching pad for a new formula.

Failure in the European Championship — when so much was expected — could cost Ormond his job. He has only one year to run in his present contract and it seems likely that it will NOT be renewed. Who, then, could take over as boss? It may be a bit premature to talk about successors at the moment, but like the SFA have said already, we must look to the future.

Former Liverpool manager Bill Shankly would be a popular choice among the fans and there is no doubt that he could motivate players. He could get the players believing in that jersey again. I love the story about Shankly preparing to play against England at Wembley. He says: "I looked down at that little lion on my jersey and it looked up and said: 'Let's get into those English bastards!'"

Fickle English fans won't like those sentiments obviously, but taken in the right manner they sum up Shankly's enthusiasm for his country. He was a player in the Bremner mould — and how good it would be if he were given the chance to show what he could do as a manager of his country's international team. The involvement at this level naturally wouldn't be as hectic as that of a club boss with day-to-day commitments.

That would take care of the motivators, but what about the rest of the squad? All Scotland still sighs for players of the quality and determination of Dave Mackay, Denis Law and Jim Baxter.

World-class

However, we should remember that even with those players we didn't win anything of importance. Certainly they were world-class players, but possibly they were lacking in direction when it came to combining with eight other individuals. Scotland needs togetherness in the squad now and although I don't believe in wholesale changes I do feel some of the younger players should be brought in and given the 'feel' of international soccer at the highest level.

Tommy Craig, of Newcastle United, has already proved what he can do as skipper of the Under-23 team. He has led them to a place in the latter stages of the European Championship Under-23 tournament and I think the time has come for him to step up. The goalscoring duo of Andy Gray (Aston Villa) and Motherwell's Willie Pettigrew should also be brought into the scheme of things.

Any Scottish player — young or old — who shows he can do a job for his country shouldn't be overlooked.

The changes must be made immediately. And the battle plans must be drawn up immediately. Then we may see the re-birth of the dark blues . . .

Martin Murray, 17, who has now signed for Everton after being chased by a string of English clubs.

Youngsters from Eire still cross the Channel

by TONY REID

ONCE MORE the Irish are supplying the goods to the English soccer scene, and whether one appreciates the fact or otherwise, it has to be conceded that the folk on the other side of St George's Channel have been doing just this for Methuselah's years.

They'll give you the message pronto, because most of the clubs over there annually balance their accounts with cheques most gratefully received from Football League organisations for services rendered in one way or another.

That has been a remarkable way of things which has proved highly satisfactory for the game as a whole, and has undoubtedly encouraged home spun youngsters to try their luck on harder testing grounds in other countries.

Pleasure

If it had not been so, there's a good chance we may never have had the wonderful pleasure of watching some of the world's greatest artists exhibit their individual skills at both club and international levels.

Yet it must also be recognised, and certainly is by folk in high places, that without the coaching and training schedules which shaped them into top material, the majority might merely have finished on the original starting lines.

I wonder, sometimes, whether it is fully appreciated how many have succeeded after making the one-way trips from the Emerald Isle? Has that line of thought ever struck you, too? Well, brace yourself for a shock. It is variously estimated that more than 5,000 have made the grade in either England or Scotland since the end of the last war.

There were hundreds of others, too, between the wars. Many readers a bit longer in the tooth will no doubt readily vouch for that fact. And, as it is usually pleasant to recall sporting facets let's do so with the aid of a confirmatory glance at the old record sheets.

We'll kick-off with the ones grandfathers remember. Here we go with pre-war Bill McCracken, who wrote his name in letters of gold in Newcastle United's early history, just like Sheffield United's Billie Gillespie charmed 'em while picking up the honours over two decades, and Andy McCluggage was idolised at Bradford Park Avenue.

New boys

Coming down the years, we had the voluble Elisha Scott, Liverpool's great goalkeeper, and the bane of Parson Jackson's life when they played in the same defence, Millwall's Tom Brolly, Leeds United's Danny Cochrane, Everton's wee Alex Stevenson, and the nomadic Peter Doherty, master of the craft, who did everything but make the ball sit up and beg.

The return to peace provided another stage for new boys such as Johnny Carey of Manchester United, Eddie Hinton of Fulham, Norman Lockhart and Peter McParland of Aston Villa, Charlie Tully of Glasgow Celtic, Reg Ryan and Jack Vernon of West Bromwich, Seamus Dunne and Bud Aherne of Luton, Frank O'Farrell and Noel Cantwell of West Ham, and Eddie McMorran, a Belfast blacksmith's striker whom Manchester City signed after watching him bounce big Frank Swift in an inter-league game.

Then along came Danny Blanchflower to learn the business with Barnsley before moving to Spurs after a halt at Villa Park en route, smiling Eddie Crossan of Blackburn, Willie Cunningham of St. Mirren and Leicester, Burnley's Jimmy McIlroy, Nottingham Forest's Noel Kelly and Portsmouth's Norman Uprichard, who first signed for Arsenal but never played in their league team.

Around that time there also emerged Billy Bingham, who shared his services between Sunderland, Luton, Everton and Port Vale, Alf McMichael of Newcastle, Alex Elder of Burnley, Derek Dougan of Wolves, Andy McEvoy of Blackburn, and Terry Neill, who picked up a formidable succession of caps during a decade at Highbury.

The one-and-only George Best arrived to top the bill, but despite his departure from Old Trafford the famous Lancashire club is still supplying strength to the Irish national team. To wit no fewer than four already this season — Sammy McIlroy, David McCreery, Jimmy Nicholl and Tommy Jackson.

There's another new star on the way. Another George Best, they tell me. The name's Martin Murray. He's only 17 and has just left school, but is carrying the right reference — membership of Dublin's Home Farm team, a "nursery" which as produced more internationals than any other small organisation in the four countries. He has now signed for Everton.

ANDRE DUCLOS reports from France

KOVACS GONE—WORLD CUP IS NEXT ON AGENDA

WELL, KOVACS has gone, we are out of the European Championship, and we know we must face Eire and Bulgaria in the World Cup; which is a little easier than facing Eire and Russia. That was our fate last time, and though belief isn't at the moment running very high, I would give us at least an even chance of qualifying for 1978.

Though a great gusher of self-criticism has risen like oil in the desert after our Championship elimination, I have to say that it seems to me monstrously exaggerated. How badly, after all, did we do in that qualifying group? All right, we lost twice, but by 2-1 margins away from home, to East Germany and Belgium, neither of whom won in Paris. We drew in Iceland, but only Belgium won there, and the East Germans not only lost there but were held by them at home, where we won 3-0.

Then there are the exploits of Saint Etienne and the success of our Under 23 side to be taken into account. Some have criticised Kovacs because he never really made enough use of the reservoir of talent at Saint Etienne; that though piece by piece, so to speak, he called up most of the team, he would not take the definitive plunge and choose all of them who were qualified. We know what Kovacs' response would be to that: that the two who were not qualified, the Yugoslav international goalkeeper Curkovic and the Argentinian stopper Piazza were two of the most important and influential members of the team.

Magnificent nine

To this, the French response was that Saint Etienne were essentially a team, relying on no particular individuals, and that even without Piazza and Curkovic, the magnificent nine would still have provided the wherewithal for a successful side. Who knows? Since it was not done, it cannot be proved . . . until it is.

Leaving the former Reims player and international player Michel Hidalgo to take his place, Kovacs wished him well, and advised him to imitate nobody, neither himself, Georges Boulogne nor Albert Batteux: with whom some thought that Kovacs would have been wise to collaborate more closely. Oddly enough, Hidalgo himself criticised Kovacs at the last gasp, saying that he felt it wrong to let Bathenay and Janvion play for the Under 23 side rather than for the full team on the same occasion against Belgium's first team. Still, Kovacs could reply to that at least France Under 23 won and thus qualified for the quarter finals of the European competition while the first team was already without a hope of getting into the quarter finals of the Nations Cup.

Finishing power

Hidalgo says that what France needs is a centre-forward, and that he believes Platini of Nancy — a new name to you, no doubt, but a player who has done very well in the League this season — is worth a chance. He also speaks well of Soler, but is frank enough to admit publicly that Soler's performance is affected by "grave personal problems." Certainly finishing power is something the French team does lack; but then, what international team doesn't?

Kovacs has urged that the French League be cut down to 18 clubs. He has said that when he made it known that he was taking the job, Helmut Schoen of West Germany warned him that there was "nothing to be done in France." Kovacs emphasises that he always conceived a major part of his job as being to spread the gospel among the clubs, to promote better training and skills.

He wasn't helped this season by the decline in form of Jean-Marc Guillou, who came so splendidly into the national side last season in midfield, at the ripe old age of 29. It is rather ironic that Guillou then should be playing for Angers, who were fighting a long, losing battle against relegation, whereas now he is playing for Nice, who are among the pace setters in the Championship, and looks far more drained and weary than ever he did with Angers.

One thing that did emerge from the largely disappointing Belgian game is that the Saint Etienne captain, Larque, the ex-centre-forward, is now one of our best creative midfield men, the problem being less one of talent than of temperament. He had been on the field for only twenty-two (impressive) minutes when he was badly and painfully fouled by Dockx, struck him to the ground bang in front of the referee, and got himself sent off. One can imagine what Roby Herbin will have to say to him if he does that in a European Cup tie.

So Hidalgo's task is clearly to get something of the steel and stamina of the Saint Etienne team into his international side. Eire will not be easy foes, especially in Dublin, for we know they have improved under Johnny Giles' managership and that Don Givens is one of the most dangerous strikers in Europe. Both they and the Bulgarians — who have also been frequent foes in post-war competitions — perhaps have a physical hardness that we lack, but it cannot be said that either is in the top category of international football. A French team fully expressing its possibilities must have a decent chance of eliminating either or both of them.

International level

And remember that Kovacs, as he himself pointed out, brought a number of young players into the team who now can surely only get better; wingers Rocheteau and Emon, the tough and versatile half-back Bathenay, in midfield. These are three players who have won their wings only this season. By the time next season comes, they sould be much more resourceful at international level.

It has been said, too, that our defence could be a good deal more systematically organised than it was by Kovacs against Belgium, when there seemed to be a strange lack of specific planning: a new man such as the stopper Orlanducci, for example, should have been allowed, some felt, to mark much more tightly. No doubt with a twinkle in his eye, Kovacs said that he had learned much in Amsterdam on the professional level, and in Paris on the diplomatic level.

Others might say that on the diplomatic level Kovacs had much to teach, rather than to learn. He was always consummately tactful.

English players lacking control

"Whether you win or lose ten-nil there is no substitue for skill" **...says Ken Goldman**

THUS ON similar lines used to run the old Wool adverts on the hoardings of London underground trains, although the motto I have coined above would if I may immodestly suggest it be more usefully paraded on the Wembley electric scoreboard.

The particular reason for sounding forth on this topic comes from having recently watched on television, along no doubt with countless others, England's meagre display against Portugal. Seeing what the English national team served up, one was more upset by the inability of the England players to control the ball and pass accurately to one another than by the resultant draw, which basically removed England's chance of qualifying for the next round of the European Championship.

Although I consider that Don Revie has been unfairly criticised by many press men for a variety of things seemingly from his tactics to his tonsils, he has as Team Manager to accept the ultimate responsibility. Whether this is always fair or not is arguable but in any event as I am sure he would be the first to agree it is irrefutable.

Pressure

However, although he picks the side it is no fault of his that the players in Britain today often cannot perform even the basic fundamentals under pressure. Even Bill Nicholson, an accepted master tactician, was heard to say recently: "How can you begin to talk tactics to players if they can't even pass the ball."

In a timely reissue of his book '*Tactics and Teamwork*' (published by E.P. Publishing Ltd.) Charles Hughes emphasises that "nothing destroys a team quite so quickly as inaccurate passing" while "nothing builds a team's confidence more rapidly than good accurate passing."

In this and in the realms of controlling the ball England are falling behind. There has been considerable controversy in recent weeks between the England manager and the Secretary of the Football League. Both have points in their favour in respect of their own views, but whatever side you come down on there is no doubt that the present structure of football in this Country makes it impossible for clubs to practise skill work in sufficient quantities.

In order to pass the ball one has to get it first and when it is in the process of travelling from one boot to another it has to be controlled, and quite frankly British players let themselves down in this technique as well. Part of the problem in this may stem from the fact that the British tend to be supreme in the world at pressurising opponents and giving them little time and space in which to play.

This constant pressure is always to be seen in League football and quite frequently even in non-league matches. With this constant pressure often introduced into training there is little opportunity for players to learn to play around with the ball and try out new skills or even tricks.

When British teams play certain skilful continental sides they are unable to contain the opposition who despite being under pressure from our players, have already assimilated into their play techniques acquired under conditions of little pressure, which enable them to defeat the vice-like grip offered by our defenders and midfield men.

Listen again to Charles Hughes one of the top experts on pressurising as I quote from his chapter on the subject: "Lack of pressure is the most important single cause of goals being scored. It therefore follows that good pressurising both as individuals and as a team is the most important single defensive factor."

That his words are true and accurate for English football there can be no doubt and this is borne witness to every Saturday afternoon and a good many mid-week evenings.

However all is not gloom and despondency at this present time. There can be no doubt that British goalkeepers are the best in and envy of the World. Likewise in respect of the ten outfield players the British are quite likely to be voted top at heading the ball both in attack and defence.

Assets

Likewise attitude and fitness are other great assets which we possess and I was reminded of this recently when speaking to two journalists, one from Yugoslavia and one from Italy, who underlined both what I have heard from other continental writers and also "the grass is greener" principle.

By this I mean that coaches come from all over the World to study the way the British approach the game and this despite our singular lack of success in international fields over the past couple of years. Indeed many of them go back to their own countries and try to instill the fitness, power and aggression which our players have, into their own sides.

In turn and perhaps in time we will engraft some of their skills onto our players and the mixture should be a product worth going a long way to see. Ah well, by and large as I said when I came in "there is no substitute for skill."

BRAZIL'S FEOLA DIES AFTER HEART ATTACK

IT WAS sad to learn that Vicente Feola, manager of Brazil's World Cup team in 1958 and, less happily, in 1966, should have died in Sao Paolo at the age of 65, after a heart attack. I remember him well in Gothenburg during the 1958 World Cup, a plump and rumbling figure, Buddha-like, given to sudden explosions of anger when something displeases him. I remember, too, talking with him in the Olympic Village in Tokyo, six years later, when he advanced the very rational view that Olympic football tournaments should be confined to players under the age of 21.

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

Danny Blanchflower tells an endearing anecdote of him at a Press conference in Stockholm during that same 1958 World Cup. There was a psychologist attached to the Brazilian team, an amiable man with spectacles, a growth of stubble, and a slightly pathetic air of being on the fringe of things. When Feola was asked what he thought of the psychologist, the interpreter responded, "Senhor Feola is not saying that he wishes the psychologist would go to hell, but he is thinking it."

Somewhat ironically, perhaps, one of the tributes paid in Italy to Feola was by Jose Altafini, the ageless Juventus centre-forward whom as a 19 year old called Mazzola, was in and out of the 1958 Brazilian World Cup side. Altafini recalls that Feola was more of a general manager than a team manager, confining himself to the minutiae of the game, the importance of studs, laces, throw-ins and the like.

Headquarters

I remember Feola talking with some impatience out at Hindas, amidst whose pleasant woods the Brazilians had their headquarters, and where the Russians would come shuffling out of the trees to watch them, like bears of Mazzola. He had been paid a fortune to join Milan, said Feola, and he was only 19; how could it not go to his head? He did not fit in with the rest of the team.

Since then, Altafini has not only matured; he has become one of the most remarkably long lived players of our time, at 37 still a centre-forward capable of doing immense damage at the highest level. I thought he did well for Brazil in that 1958 tournament; I still remember a magnificent finger tip save made from him by the excellent Colin McDonald, that Barnley goalkeeper whose fine career was ended so prematurely with a broken leg, and whom people seem to have forgotten, today.

Mazzola also remembers that Feola allowed Bellini to be elected captain of the team in 1958 by democratic vote. A further and still more important victory for player power was that of Nilton Santos and those others who pleaded with Feola to put Garrincha into the team at outside-right, after the first two games. They were given their way. Garrincha played in Gothenburg against Russia and, in my old friend and colleague Bob Ferrier's words, "reduced the Russian left-back to shredded cabbage." Sweden's left-back, in the Final, fared no better, though in the quarter-final Mel Hopkins of Wales played his marvellously well.

Handsome

LAST MONTH, I write about Eamonn Dunphy's splendid memoirs, which I trust will find a publisher, and Ken Shearwood's endearing chronicle of Pegasus; though on reflection I would hardly say their handsome late assistant treasurer, Jerry Weinstein, had "heavy Jewish features," and I think Shearwood could have said more about Jerry's value to the club.

There are those among its former players who feel that its only chance of survival disappeared when *he* disappeared: to Paris, to join the Nuclear Energy Agency as a lawyer, and to die at the pitifully early age of 39. His strength, dynamism and essential good sense might have saved the club from the fatal errors of its leaders.

In an immeasurably lower category comes GIVE A LITTLE WHISTLE (Souvenior Press, £2.95) by Gordon Hill, assisted by Jason Tomas, a book which comes to us billed as "the recollections of a remarkable referee." Mr. Hill's self-absorption, even self-obsession, shines forth from every indifferently written page (he or his ghost should really learn to spell the words "all right", not least as he is a headmaster) but this sheer egocentricity gives the book a certain interest.

So passionately involved is Hill with Hill that he gives us, like some lesser Rousseau, *everything*: himself as referee, warts and all. Good or bad, if it concerns himself, it is of such immense moment to him that he gives it to us, too.

If Tommy Dawes was known as "The Laughing Referee", Mr. Hill perhaps could be known as "The Swearing Referee." In one of the many anecdotes which show him in a less than flattering light, Chris Balderstone, then with Huddersfield, rebuked him with dignity for swearing at a Blackburn player who was encroaching on a free kick which Balderstone himself was trying to take.

There is another anecdote of Hill chatting for half an hour before a match in his dressing-room with Nat Lofthouse, the old Bolton and England centre-forward, without even introducing him to his two linesmen. Perhaps, he says, it was not well mannered of him. No; but it seems characteristically self-absorbed.

Hill may have been "the players' friend", may, as he says, have "taken the heat" out of many a situation with his unorthodox but effective chatting, may be on the side of the angels when it comes to a matter such as corporal punishment (though he should learn the difference between "recriminatory" and "retributive") but he was never a major international referee.

Patriotism

He admits as much, with a side-swipe at the authoritarian Clive Thomas, masquerading as proper modesty. Chatting, like patriotism, was not enough: you couldn't chat to players who did not speak your language.

Beneath this, again, there evidently lies Hill's consuming need to be liked. His relations with the players seem to outweigh almost any other consideration. A good referee must, in the final analysis, like a policeman, a judge, even, *pace* Mr. Hill, a headmaster, be prepared to be disliked. So Hill resolved some situations with his matey approach, and, by his own admission, wasn't strong enough to prevent others getting out of hand.

Penarol's run ends

IN URUGUAY with only one match to go for the top eight teams to continue play in the second round of the 12-team new major league, First Division champions Peñarol's 37-game unbeaten streak ended with a 2-1 defeat at the hands of fourth-placed Defensor, leaving Nacional as the only unbeaten team with a one-point lead. A week earlier, Peñarol had taken a one-point lead as Nacional dropped an unexpected point to joint-fourth Danubio.

Nacional, Peñarol, Liverpool, Defensor, Danubio, River Plate and Fenix were sure of a place in the top eight second round, while Cerro needed one more point. But such is the necessity of Nacional and Peñarol to win that after the two met recently and played to a 1-1 draw, Nacional asked for intervention of the referees association, alleging irregularities to favour their rivals. At Peñarol, meanwhile, there was unrest and talk of dismissing coach Bagnulo as soon as their 37-game unbeaten run ended.

Bareño (River Plate) is top scorer with eight, followed by Morena (Peñarol) 7.

IN BRAZIL the semi final stage of the national championship (Copa Brazil) is being played with Fluminense (10 points) leading Cruzeiro (9) in group one and Internacional (14) leading Santa Cruz (11) in group two.

The top two from each group go into the four-team title play-off.

IN ECUADOR, Deportivo Cuenca and Universidad de Quito share the lead with 13 points each.

IN PARAGUAY, Olimpia made sure of the First Division title by maintaining their seven-points lead over second-placed River Plate with three matches to go.

IN CHILE, Union Española, last season's runners-up, played off all their games left pending earlier in the season while they reached the final of the Libertadores Cup and are now topping the First Division table — two points ahead of early season leaders Green Cross and Deportivo Concepción, but there is still a long way to go.

IN PERU, where attendances have been dropping for some time, two teams were threatening strike action because players had not been paid — last year's vice-champions Union Huaral and Union Tuman, both near the bottom of the table, while Alfonso Ugarte was up for sale to anybody who could pull them out of their financial mess.

Meanwhile national championship leaders Alianza Lima became the last team to lose their unbeaten record (after 15 games) but maintained their one-point lead with still over half the championship to go.

Matches were postponed while Peru played in and won the South American Championship, but in some cases clubs had to play without their internationals and this hit some of them — especially last year's champions Universitario who are currently eighth and five points behind the leaders.

ERIC WEIL

'So passionately involved is Hill that he gives us, like some lesser Rousseau, everything: himself as a referee, warts and all!'

There was, in particular, a match between Southampton and Arsenal at The Dell which turned very sour indeed, after Hugh Fisher had his leg broken in a collision with Bob Wilson, the Arsenal goalkeeper.

Mr. Hill is honest enough to admit that he completely lost control not only of that game, but of the Manchester City match which followed, that a spectator came up to him outside the Southampton ground and told him he should be ashamed of himself. Grist to the mill, again; after all, Hill himself is the story's protagonist.

Referees are, I suppose, a necessary evil. If I admire British referees, and I do, it is not because I think they are very brave or very good or particularly distinguished of their kind. It is because I utterly and absolutely trust them.

In all the investigations Keith Botsford and I have pursued into corruption in European football for the SUNDAY TIMES, not once has any British referee come under the slightest suspicion. The more corrupt Italian clubs, indeed, seem to have tried to avoid them like the plague.

That seems to me a major, unsolicited if round about tribute. Mr. Hill, too, was — is — a thoroughly honest man and for this, whatever his thin skinned egotism, I am ready to salute him.

OLYMPIC STADIUM UNLIKELY TO BE FINISHED

REPORTS EMANATING from Montreal and Quebec City would seem to indicate that it is now highly unlikely that the Olympic Stadium will be completed on time for the opening of the 1976 games next July.

Responsibility for the construction of the stadium has now been passed from the City of Montreal to the Province of Quebec as costs have risen to an estimated one billion dollars.

For months work has been behind schedule at the main stadium site as a result of a series of strikes, but recently the construction appeared to have caught up with the workers operating in two 12 hour shifts. Overtime rates plus inflation are partly responsible for pushing up costs.

However, another more recent strike appears to have been the straw which broke the camels back and now the organisers fear that while the stadium will be ready to stage the events as scheduled it may lack many of the trimmings including the retractable roof.

Even this may yet be in jeopardy for as I write this it has been announced that the truck drivers who deliver the concrete sections to the stadium site have gone on strike and should this strike last more than a week then all work would once again cease.

This may force the organisers to look for alternative sites in which to stage the opening ceremonies.

Despite all this the soccer competition is only likely to be affected in a minor way; in fact, the soccer competition could easily be staged without the main stadium at all for those games scheduled for the Olympic Stadium could be switched to the 35,000 seat Autostade where Canada played internationals against Poland and Hungary this summer.

Very few tickets for the soccer competition have yet been sold and it is unlikely that they will be until the draw for the various groups is completed.

COLIN JOSE

INTERNATIONAL MICROSCOPE-ENGLAND

by ERIC BATTY

World Cup win sowed seeds for failure . . .

	P	W	D	L	F	A
F.I.F.A	3	2	1	0	9	5
Argentina	6	3	2	1	8	5
Austria	14	8	3	3	51	21
Belgium	16	12	3	1	65	23
Bohemia	1	1	0	0	4	0
Brazil	8	1	2	5	8	16
Bulgaria	3	1	2	0	2	1
Chile	2	2	0	0	4	1
Colombia	1	1	0	0	4	0
Cyprus	2	2	0	0	6	0
Czechoslovakia	8	4	2	2	16	11
Denmark	5	4	1	0	16	4
Ecuador	1	1	0	0	2	0
Eire	5	3	1	1	10	5
Finland	3	3	0	0	16	1
France	18	13	2	3	57	24
Germany, East	3	2	1	0	6	3
Germany, West	13	8	2	3	29	17
Greece	2	2	0	0	5	0
Holland	5	3	2	0	11	3
Hungary	10	5	0	5	32	25
Ireland, North	82	63	13	6	289	77
Italy	10	4	4	2	18	13
Luxembourg	3	3	0	0	18	3
Malta	2	2	0	0	6	0
Mexico	4	2	1	1	11	2
Norway	4	4	0	0	20	2
Peru	2	1	0	1	5	4
Poland	4	1	2	1	3	4
Portugal	14	8	5	1	35	16
Rumania	4	2	2	0	4	1
Russia	77	3	3	1	14	7
Scotland	92	35	22	36	171	159
Spain	11	7	1	3	26	14
Sweden	9	6	1	2	23	13
Switzerland	11	8	1	2	33	9
Uruguay	5	2	1	2	7	8
United States	4	3	0	1	24	5
Wales	87	57	19	11	229	81
Yugoslavia	11	2	5	4	15	18
Totals	496	294	104	98	1312	601

THERE ARE those, particularly amongst the popular press and their readers, who fervently believe that England's rightful place in world football is at the top. In fact, England's overall figures suggest that only Brazil (one England win in eight meetings) and Yugoslavia (two England wins in 11 clashes) have proved themselves consistently better than England.

Yet, as we all know, England's recent football history is packed with failures at every level.

The high spot for England fanatics was undoubtedly the 1966 World Cup when England, playing every game at Wembley, grabbed at the opportunity to take the World Cup. This assumed the vast majority, was the proof of what they had always believed, that England were the best in the world.

At the time, mine was a relatively lone voice, since echoed by many other football writers in England though they wouldn't admit it, stating that in the manner of their winning England sowed the seeds of future failure.

Applauding everything that passed for football in 1966, the masses could not see that a nine man defence (the 4-4-2 system), the emphasis on work rate at the expense of skill and intelligence and mindless stream of high crosses mostly by energetic full backs would lead inevitably to the disappearance of wing play and lead directly to the fighting football that mars our grounds-cum-battle fields today.

In fact, what passes for football in 1975-76 is much better described as fight-ball . . . and I will concede that England are the world's best at this game. Tragically it has very little in common with the ancient art of soccer, the game which is still played in many outposts of the world beyond the British Isles and proves to be superior when the important issues have to be settled — just recently — Real Madrid v Derby County; Czechoslovakia v England and Portugal v England.

Drew condemnation

In fact, little Cyprus show the way though they of course are not in the same class as England. It is their home results in competitive European Championship games which underline the present situation for me. Cyprus, at home to England, made the visitors struggle for a 1-0 win that drew condemnation from the English Press. England were taken all the way by a bunch of no-hopers.

Later, Portugal visited the island to win comfortably by 2-0 and later still came Czechoslovakia to win by a wide margin — 3-0 in goals and three more Czech efforts rattled against Cypriot posts!

But that is only one little insight into England's overall figures which make very good reading on the surface. Since 1966 England have been consistently humiliated, starting with the failure to go beyond the quarter finals in the 1970 World Cup. In fact, who is to say that England would have qualified had he FIFA rules not provided that the holders got a place in the last 16 automatically. More recent events suggest there is some room for doubt.

After that came the 1972 European championship and another even more humiliating disaster when West Germany beat England 3-1 at Wembley in the quarter finals, to put hem out.

Then it was the 1974 World Cup in which England failed to qualify with Poland beating them 2-0 and drawing 1-1 at Wembley . . . and England's goal was a somewhat doubtful penalty of the kind rarely given by referees to visiting teams.

Finally, of course, the failure to get past the first hurdle in the 1976 European Championship, a competiiton in which England were expected to organise the semi finals and final. To do that they had to reach the last four and it wouldn't have been so surprising if England had been drawn in a tough group. But Czechoslovakia, Portugal and Cyprus looked like easy meat.

No one can claim that the Czechs have an outstanding team. Even they themselves were lacking in confidence when it came to the England clashes. And why not?

Solitary win

In seven previous encounters the Czechs had lost 3 drawn 2 and won 1, and that solitary win was way back in the 1930's. Portugal too had a poor record against England — won 1, drew 3, lost 8 . . . while Cyprus really have no right to do more than invite Second Division club teams to play friendly games on their island.

Perhaps the most interesting question is WHERE DO ENGLAND REALLY STAND NOW? My answer — is right back where they were in 1966.

Right now, just as in 1966 there is no really outstanding international team, and if England were to stage the World Cup now and play all their games at Wembley and accepting, as most people do, that referees by and large are homers, I believe that England would once more win the World Cup.

That of course doesn't mean that England are good or would be the best in the world. England were not good in 1966, and the English game now is even more defensive and destructive, even dirtier and nastier, faster and lacking in finese than it was in 1966. All it would prove is that England are still the world fight-ball champions.

SWISS HOPE TO QUALIFY

THE SWISS part-time footballers followed with astonishment and some amusement, the heated exchanges in word and print between the secretary of the English Football League, Alan Hardaker, and national manager, Don Revie, concerning the insufficient time allocated to England's international players, before the recent match v. Portugal.

And this quite apart from the fact, that in Switzerland, and for that matter in the whole of the Continent, there is no secretary of any governing body in football who wields as much power and influence as Mr. Hardaker in England. The Swiss Press found it quaint, that such a (to them) minor official, could publicly attack a national manager. But of even greater significance was the comparison in preparation of the respective national sides.

Heaviest

A week earlier the Swiss national team also played a European Championship qualifying match v Russia, and most of the men had to turn out for their clubs, not like in England four days earlier, but just three days before, on the Sunday! Then, on Monday, they were assembled and flew to Kiev, where on Wednesday they suffered their heaviest defeat for three years.

The rather brutal score line of 4-1 was only partially blamed on the lack of rest, or inadequate preparation. Interesting though, was the complaint by the Swiss Press against the selfish clubs who fixed their matches for Sunday, yet according to the regulations of the Swiss FA (SFV), all League matches prior to a midweek international should be played not later than Saturday, that is to say four days earlier.

Varied

In the event, the Swiss failed to follow up their good performance in that narrow 0-1 home defeat against the Soviets a month earlier in Zurich. Of course, the Russians proved a vastly different proposition at home and their sustained and cleverly varied attacks eventually wore down the overworked Helvetian defence.

Köbi Kuhn, captaining the side in his 62nd and probably last international (he wants to retire gracefully from the international scene), tried hard to wrest the initiative away from the hosts, but in vain.

Switzerland's midfield player Rudi Schneeberger exclaimed afterwards, in the dressing room: "This Russian team is the best footballing side that I know of." Other Swiss players were almost as generous in their praise

by Arthur Rotmil

of the Soviet representatives who were again based on the successful Dynamo Kiev, with the same exceptions as in Zurich: Defenders Zvianguentzev (Schachtjor Donezk) and Lovtchev (Spartak Moscow), with the new hope of Russian football, Sacharov (Torpedo Moscow) again coming on as a substitute, this time for Donkov.

The decisive factor in this heavy defeat of the Swiss was the better athletic, technical and tactical preparation of the Russians, who might have run up a much bigger score, had they possessed a "killer instinct". As it was, the match was virtually over shortly before the first quarter hour had been completed and with two hammer blows within 90 seconds.

Konkov, with a tremendous drive from 25 yards and Onistchenko, with a glancing header, set the pattern. Peter Risi managed to reduce the arrears, but the hosts having missed several other clear cut chances, increased the score through Onistchenko again and Veremejev. By way of consolation, for being not just eliminated, but sent to the bottom of their European Championship group, the Swiss enjoyed incredible luck in the World Cup draw.

In effect, they were paired in their section with just Sweden and Norway.

Not surprisingly, a tremendous wave of optimism has now swept this usually sober and conservative country. For the first time since 1966, when they appeared in England, the Swiss are genuinely in with a great chance of making the finals. Tradition is on their side, for little Switzerland have qualified for the World Cup finals six times — exactly as often as England!

No one is underestimating the Swedes, or dismissing the Norwegians here, but when Swiss experts surveyed the other qualifying groups, then the inescapable conclusion was reached that their country will never get a better opportunity, than now. Already the Press and other mass media are beating the drum, in quite uncharacteristic fashion, demanding from the Football Federation a serious programme of preparation, which would be placed above all other domestic (read parochial) considerations.

In the League, the reigning champions FC Zurich took over at the top for the first time at the beginning of November, and it looks as if they will not be dislodged so easily. Zurich have undoubtedly the finest collection of players in this country and it would be a bold man indeed to predict that they can be toppled.

Their international striker Peter Risi has at last lived up to his reputation and with 13 goals, in as many matches, leads the scorers list practically unchallenged. It is mainly thanks to his finishing power, that the title holders are spending the customary winter break at the top of the table.

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Leighton James (left) with Derby County manager Dave Mackay after James had signed for the Football League champions.

Turf Moor becomes a showpiece

SOCCER'S the name of the game. And the score of an opening chorus for a New Year of tremendous possibilities at club and international levels must be of special interest to all small town folk because it has been provided by one of their very own.

For the name this time is BURNLEY. Hardly a glamour spot on the map of the British Isles. Certainly lacking in beauty, though sitting astride the confluence of the Burn and the Calder in the cold, sweet air of a windswept corner of the Pennines.

Mostly regarded as an outpost, just a few short miles from the Lancashire-Yorkshire border, the old cotton town boasts of a mere 80,000 people, and I doubt whether there are more than 150,000 in the entire neighbourhood. Yet this is a club which counts in a big way. Yes, sir.

For, believe it or not, its Turf Moor headquarters is gradually becoming one of Britain's showpieces. When completed there will have been an outlay of nearly £1½m. with the provision of new covered accommodation and many other ancillary comforts.

Operations

Staggering, perhaps, though my old friend chairman Bob Lord would quickly underline that this achievement stems from exceptionally good management, coupled with the fact that whereas so many finish losers on transfer market operations, they have collected well for home spun material. Probably near £2m. in the space of just a couple of decades.

That's practically a net profit. Because, unlike other clubs, Burnley are not interested in building teams out of banking accounts. They plump for home coached stuff most of the time. In one period of nine years, they spent almost nothing on signings.

It's just a case of selling the odd star now and again. And their fans don't grumble as much as might be expected, because of recognising that there always seems to be a sufficiency of newcomers to step up and fill any vacancies.

Here's the proof. Seven or eight years ago I was handed a list of up-and-coming youngsters, and told they formed a bunch which could quite easily become worth a cool million quid in a fairly short time, always allowing for injuries or other unfortunate blows.

The names pencilled in for me included those of Martin Dobson, Ralph Coates, Dave Thomas, Geoff Nulty and Mike Doherty. All had been recruited almost straight from the classroom, and then moved into the Turf Moor Academy.

Appearances

Since then, most have gone elsewhere. Coates cost Spurs £72,000. Thomas signed for Queens Park Rangers for £165,000. Newcastle valued Nulty at £120,000, and Everton willingly forked out £300,000 for Dobson. Are you with me? See what I mean?

They don't all stay in the headlines, of course. I'm thinking particularly now of John Connelly, England winger of the 60's, who consecutively wore the colours of Burnley, Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers, and Bury, and in the interim totted up more than 600 first team appearances.

He won a special niche in history with one of the five goals with which United defeated Benfica in the European Cup quarter final. Yet there was no brassy farewell to mark his exit from Gigg Lane. Instead, he drove home alone to his fish-and-chip shop over the top of the hill.

Progress

Now, however, the East Lancashire outfit has been on the receiving end once more, though this time it's a winger whom Wales have to thank for making such fine progress in the European championship — Leighton James, whose native heath belongs to Glamorgan.

A 22-year-old who only burst onto the big scene a few short years ago, he had the benefit of Jimmy Adamson's expertise though opinions were mixed when personal ambitions dictated a move, and he joined the flamboyant Dave Mackay, at Derby.

Whether the transfer proves good for young Leighton only time will tell. But it boosted Burnley's credit account at the bank by nearly £300,000, though they may have preferred him to stay and play his heart out in the fight for a better League placing in the top circle.

EIRE FACE U.S.S.R. IN WORLD CUP

by TONY REID

RUSSIA, AS EXPECTED, qualified from group six for the European Championship finals and thus ended Eire's aspirations that seemed so bright a year ago. Now that their European hopes have been ended the Eire legislators have their sights firmly fixed on the next World Cup competition.

France and Bulgaria will provide the opposition in a three team group that Eire manager, Johnny Giles, has described as being a great draw for the team. My own feeling is that the French and Bulgarians will prove a lot tougher than people expect.

On six occasions France have played Eire at international level and, statistically, there is nothing between the sides. Eire's record is: P 6, W2, D2, L2, goals for, nine and goals against, nine.

In November, 1972, France were beaten, 2-1 at Dalymount Park in a World cup tie and the return match in May of 1973 ended in a 1-1 draw.

Eire have never played Bulgaria in a full international and the only match between the two countries, an Olympic games affair in 1924 in Paris, enabled Eire to start her international career with a win, 1-0, and Holland eliminated the Eire squad, 2-1, in the next round.

Best chance

Although it will be mighty tough the feeling is that Eire stand the best chance ever of qualifying for the final rounds of the competition in Argentina in 1978.

A disturbing feature of Irish soccer life at the moment is the amount of abuse that certain members of the football writing fraternity suffer when they express opinions that are not exactly popular with players and legislators.

At the conclusion of the Eire-Turkey match a well known evening paper's columnist was almost forcibly ejected from the Irish dressing-room by a member of the victorious Eire side.

The journalist was also roundly abused in most unparliamentary language by the said player, who must remain annonymous but who plays with a London club that has suffered declining fortunes in recent years.

The journalists "crime" is not very clear but had the irate international taken the trouble to check his facts more thoroughly he would have discovered that the unfortunate writer whom he abused was not responsible for a story that was, for him, unfortunately alongside his by-line.

The story more or less accused Eire team manager, Johnny Giles, of having an old brigade that will not be dropped until they have to be almost wheeled onto the pitch. It is an opinion that many, if not most, of Eire soccer fans will agree with.

At a Press conference after the match Giles was accused of not wanting to speak to another member of the press when the working journalist called to the teams hotel. In the past Giles has made it clear that he has very little love for soccer writers.

In the November issue of **World Soccer** I had occasion to criticise the standard of football in one of Eire's lesser leagues, the Leinster Senior League. A spokesman for that league verbally blasted me bacause I described the standard of football in the league as being the worst type found anywhere in Europe. He questioned my right to judge the league's low standard.

It must have slipped his mind that, for a number of years I refereed in this league and was therefore in the best possible position to judge for myself. Of course he quite rightly pointed out that some of the clubs within the league had contributed a large slice to the history of Eire football, but that was years ago.

Ever since the Eire league clubs pulled their reserve clubs out of this league some years ago it has been on the decline. And the longer people within the league continue to bury their heads in the sand its decline will only accelerate.

There is no doubt that the men controlling the leagues fortunes are honest and dedicated officials but the sooner they rehabilitate this dying relic from the Victorian era the better. It was indeed gratifying to hear from this gentleman as it proved that the columns of World Soccer have a wide readership and can exercise a strong influence on world football affairs, even among the minor leagues.

Eire league champions Bohemians are finding the job of retaining their title a most difficult one indeed. With more than a quarter of the championship played they find themselves five points adrift of leaders Finn Harps.

The Donegal club are looking good for the favourites position in the title race. The Harps club have been consistently in the top bracket since entering the league over six years ago and should they take the title for the first time this year it would be a popular win among most Eire fans.

Shamrock Rovers tried an interesting and novel experiment when they timed their Sunday league fixture with Bohemians to start at 11.45 a.m. The crowds rolled up and the £300 "gate" almost doubled Rovers average Sunday takings. It is too early yet to know whether it was the novelty of the kick-off time or the availability of more fans which helped to swell the attendance.

It just might turn out to be the answer to Eire's declining spectator interest and perhaps, it might even give the lead to other countries in similar straits. It is an experiement worth repeating, and watching.

Despite continued sponsorship from the Buss beer company to encourage more goalscoring in the Eire league the total goals is still down on last season. Less than three goals per game was the average up to the end of November. Money, apparently, is not the answer to the goalscoring famine.

Johnny Giles, player-manager of Eire.

Climax ruined by a tacit pact

Hungarian news ... by Leslie Vernon

A TACIT non-aggression pact between Ferencvaros and Videoton has ruined the climax of the first half of the Hungarian League campaign. By a stroke of luck, this leading pair were scheduled to meet at Szekesfehervar in the last round, and 22,000 people — a ground record — crowded into the specially enlarged stands full of expectations.

But the teams inexplicably resorted to mere "shadow-boxing". neither goalkeeper was seriously troubled, and the game ended in a miserable, predictable draw. Pal Borbely, chief correspondent of "Nepsport", wrote: "To say that the public deserved something better from teams with championship aspirations is to repeat a sad cliche. Even the importance of the occasion couldn't motivate the players.

Mistake followed mistake, they couldn't shoot straight even when they had only the goalkeeper to beat. At the final reckoning, both Ferencvaros and Videoton might be glad to have settled for a "safe" point in this match, instead of attempting to gain two and getting beaten in the process. But teams in the forefront of football, sportsmen who are fired with ambition, do not behave this way!"

Quoted

I quoted Borbely at length, because his summing-up is a true reflection on the present state of Hungarian football, and the mentality of its protagonists. They are all trying to be "clever" — not realizing how foolish they really are! They know that they are cheating the public — but they do not comprehend that the real victims are themselves — the players, who do not realize their true potential.

In the same round, Ujpest Dozsa beat Bekescsaba 2-1, and Honved defeated Kaposvar 1-0, thus taking the top four three points clear of the field. At the break, the newly promoted Szeged and Bedescsaba occupy the relegation spots with nine points each, but there are a group of clubs, including such "old-time" favourites as MTK-VM and Vasas, who are also in the danger zone.

The middle group is headed by Haladas on 17 points — a startling improvement, because this time last year, they were 15th! Newcomers Kaposvar are eight, and seem comfortably established in the top division. But let us mark the cards of the leading four, the gulyas de la gulyas of the Magyar game.

Ferencvaros: (25 points). Although they faltered slightly in the closing stages, the green-and-whites had a most satisfactory term. They didn't drop a single point against any of their Budapest rivals. In fact, victories against Dozsa (4-1), Honved (4-3) and Vasas (2-1), are largely responsible for their three points' lead. Coach Dalnoki rightly insists on a youth policy, and neither Juhasz nor Branikovits is a regular member of the side. On the other hand, youngsters Ebedli, Nyilasi, Sabo have made great strides, and sweeper Rab has established himself as a perfect defensive foil to the adventurous centre-back, Balint. If they can reproduce their mid-season form next spring, "Fradi" must win the title to the delight of their vast following.

Success

Dozsa: (22 points). The lilac-and-whites didn't have a settled side all season, and it is a minor miracle for perhaps an indictment of the standard of football played by the lesser clubs) that they are still within striking distance of the leaders. Injuries to Bene, Fazekas, Toth and a host of others, the demoralizing defeat against Benfica, a surfeit of success in the past — these were the factors which worked against Varhidi's team during the autumn of 1975.

But man for man, Dozsa still have the strongest, most experienced squad in the country. If they do find the "winning blend" in time, marry it with motivation (the traditional rivalry with Fradi, another crack at the European Cup etc.), they might pose a real threat to the young upstarts of Ferencvaros.

Capital

Videoton: (21 points). Regarded as the only credible challengers to the age-old dominance of the teams from the capital, "Vidi" are still a bit short on class and confidence to win the league. They opened disastrously (1-3 v Honved), came back strongly, but that last gasp of a goalless draw harmed their chances of a much-awaited breakthrough. They have several outstanding players (Kovacs, Nagy, Karsai, Wollek), and excellent coach in Ferenc Kovacs. But they still lack conviction when playing away, and tend to be satisfied with a draw — not the stuff championship winning teams are made of!

Honved: (20 points). It is always more entertaining to hear coach Dr. Karoly Lakat's sardonic comments on his team's performances than to watch them play. The loss of Kozma for the entire season, and the injury which kept Lajos Koesis on the sidelines during the closing weeks, are partly responsible for a mediocre autumn. They did fairly well in the UEFA-Cup, and won all (!) their home matches in the league. But they didn't register one single victory away from home — indeed they dropped 10 points in seven games! With the return of key players there should be an improvement, and they should finish in the top three. A total of 358 goals were scored in the 120 league matches for a healthy average of 2.98 goals per match. Attendances also went up by a surprising 250,000 compared with the autumn of 1974.

Despite his injury, Koesis leads the goalscoring list with nine goals, followed by Bacsa (Kaposvar), Farkas (Haladas), Varadi (Vasas), Weimper (Honved) and Wollek (Videoton) on eight. Not unexpectedly, the World Cup draw wasn't greeted with shouts of unbridled joy in Budapest. Hungary are grouped with bogey-team Russia and improving Greece.

Seeded

And if they happen to finish on top of their section, which seems unlikely, they will have to play-off for a place in the Finals against one of the South American countries. Tough? You can say that again! Apart from Holland possibly, the Hungarians would have preferred any other seeded country to the USSR.

I have said it before, and say it again, that even in the days of the "wonder-team", the Russians were the hardest nuts to crack, and since then . . . But the qualifying competition is not yet imminent, and a great deal can happen in football before the vital games.

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COLIN JOSE examines the prospects of America and Canada in the 1978 World Cup

MEXICO THE BARRIER ONCE MORE

FOR THE second time running and the third time in the history of the competition Canada and the United States have been drawn in the same World Cup group as Mexico. While this might have its financial advantages it usually means an early exit for the two northern CONCACAF nations leaving the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean to fight it out for the single berth in the finals usually allocated to the CONCACAF area.

This might seem of little consequence to people outside of the United States and Canada for Mexico is usually regarded as the strongest and best organised soccer nation in this area and thus in most years usually emerges as the CONCACAF representative in any case. However, the image of soccer in North America badly needs a lift in the eyes of sports fans and commentators alike and even some victories over some of the weaker nations leading to a place in the play offs for a World Cup berth would undoubtedly help.

As it is thes group contains the three teams that are potentially the strongest in the CONCACAF area, providing of course that Canada and the United States makes full use of the players that are available to them and adopts a realistic professional approach in its build up. Continually placing Canada, the United States and Mexico in the same group also tends to give a totally false impression as to the status of the two northern nations, for elimination comes early leaving many of the weaker nations to advance to the CONCACAF finals.

Finances

This of course is taking a fatalistic approach to the games which will be played this summer at a time yet to be agreed upon between the three nations, but that is not to say that Canada or the United States are not capable of defeating Mexico, even though Canada has never beaten Mexico in a full international and the United States has not done so since May 24, 1934 when they beat them 4-2 in Milan in a preliminary round of the 1934 finals.

No, whether or not Canada or the United States can overcome Mexico in this group will depend more than anything on player selection, coaching, preparation, finances and co-operation from all parties within the game. This is particularly true of the United States where clubs are not required to release their players to the national team and which in the past has led to the fielding of third or fourth choice players for vital games because clubs needed their top players for league games. This situation also prevents the national team coach from holding a really effective training camp.

The United States has three excellent goalkeepers to choose from all with international experience and either one of Arnold Mausser of the Hartford Bi-Centennials, Bob Rigby of the Philadelphia Atoms and Mike Ivanow of the San Jose Earthquakes is capable of handling the job. At the back Bob Smith of the Philadelphia Atoms and Werner Roth of the New York Cosmos are obvious choices while in midfield the former Dutchman Hank Liotart of the Seattle Sounders would be an asset along with Al Trost of the St Louis Stars and Barry Barto another of the fine players developed in the Philadelphia area in recent years.

Up front the choice is spread over a considerable area but Mirko Liveric of the New York Cosmos is a highly dangerous winger who will be available to the U.S. as soon as he acquires his citizenship while other players who come to mind are Doug Wark of Tampa Bay, Archie Roboostoff of the San Jose Earthquakes and Joey Fink formerly with the Cosmos but recently transfered to Tampa Bay.

During past World Cups the U.S. had the services of Willy Roy who was always extremely effective near goal, but Roy now seems to be past his best and the U.S. selectors or the coach will have to look elsewhere for a key striker.

Four years

The question as to who will coach the team will no doubt remain a question mark for some time to come. In the past four years the U.S. national team has been handled by Bob Kehoe, Eugene Chyzowych, Gordon Bradley, Dettmar Cramer, Al Miller and most recently Manfred Schelkcheidt. Whoever gets the job this year will hopefully get a lot more co-operation than Bob Kehoe got in 1972 with the last U.S. World Cup Team, when on the day of the first game his players were trying to obtain boot laces from the Canadians and played the game without a qualified doctor attached to the team.

Soccer has come a long way in the United States in recent years in terms of player development and the man chosen as coach will have a lot of American born and developed talent to choose from as well as those foreign born players who have now acquired citizenship. If a coach is appointed now, given a free hand in his choice of players and their availability, and can find the right balance of experience, youth and ability, there is no reason why the United States should not go all the way to Argentina. The players are there, success or failure is in the hands of the administrators.

Canada on the other hand after years of logical progression and narrowly failing to beat Mexico twice in 1972 have gone sharpely downhill in the past year mostly due to internal dissention but also in no small measure due to the serious financial state of the association. Financial problems have led to Canada only entering "tentatively" for the World Cup and this hinges on a government grant which would allow Canada to field its amateur team as a warm up for the Olympics.

Should this position change then a well prepared Canadian team using professionals is also capable of reaching Argentina in 1978. Although the nucleus of Canada's national teams in recent years has been amateur the Canadians have a number of experienced professionals they can call on starting with the Lenarduzzi brothers Sam and Bob of the Vancouver Whitecaps with Bob having played a number of seasons now in the Fourth Division with Reading. Other professional defenders available are Bruce Twamley formerly with Ipswich Town, Bruce Wilson who was recently offered professional terms with Everton and turned them down and Les Wilson who played for many years with Wolves before moving on to Bristol City and Norwich City.

All of the above players played with the Vancouver Whitecaps in the NASL last season as did Glen Johnson who recaptured the form that took him into the West Bromwich Albion First Division team a few years ago. Young Wes McLeod now with Ipswich Town would also be an asset to the team as he demonstrated on his international debut against Poland last summer.

So there we are Canada and the United States two nations with considerable potential in a weak CONCACAF area who may fail to impress or even get past the first hurdle partly because of a draw that continually pits them against the strongest nation and partly because of internal fiscal and administrative problems.

POLAND STOPPED BY DOUR ITALY

Poland 0 Italy 0

THE ITALIANS gained some consolation for their defeat at the hands of Poland in the World Cup last year by virtually ending the Poles hopes of qualifying for the Euopean Championship quarter-finals.

This time the Polish front three of Lato, Szarmach and Gadocha who had run riot against the Italians in the World Cup though scoring only twice were generally well held by the visitors defence.

Poland had only three changes from their team of a year ago while the Italians fielded just five survivors in the shape of Zoff, Facchetti, Benetti, Causio and Anastasi.

Poland: Tomaszewski; Szymanowski, Ostafinski, Zmuda, Wawrowski, Kasperczak, Bula (Marx), Deyna, Lato, Szarmach, Gadocha (Kmiecicki).
Italy: Zoff; Gentile, Bellugi, Facchetti, Rocca, Benetti, Causio, Cuccureddu, Antognoni, Anastasi (Bettega), Pulici.

Portugal 1 Czechoslovakia 1

WITH BOTH teams making a late bid to catch up on England's slip in Bratislava, it was the Czechs who came out of the encounter with the better result from this draw.

They took an eight minute lead through Anton Ondrus but it lasted barely a minute before Nene equalised for Portugal. But Nene should have put the Portuguese ahead from a penalty which he failed to convert.

Portugal: Damas; Rebelo, Humberto, Coelho, Freitas, Artur, Octavio, Alves, Toni, Moinhos, Vitor Baptista, Nene (Oliveira) (Marinho).
Czechoslovakia: Viktor; Pivarnik, Jurkemik, Ondrus, Gogh, Bicovsky, Pollak, Moder, Masny (Dobias), Gallis (Veselyi), Nehoda.

Franz Beckenbauer of West Germany.

Rumania 2 Spain 2

ALTHOUGH THE Rumanians came back from the dead in this game after trailing by two goals inside an hour's play, the Spaniards point was enough to ensure their passage into the quarter-finals.

Spain with seven Real Madrid players in the side took a 29th minute lead through Villar and after 12 minutes of the second half they went two up when Santillana scored.

The Dynamo Bucharest striker Dudu Georgescu who was Europe's leading marksman last season reduced the arrears from a penalty after 72 minutes and eight minutes later Angel Jordanescu equalised to save the game but not the Rumanian hopes of progressing in the competition.

Rumania: Raducanu; Angelini, G. Sandu, Satmareanu, Lucuta, Georgescu, Dobrin, Dinu, Sandu, M (Jordanescu), Zamfir (Crisan), Lucescu.
Spain: Miguel Angel; Sol, Benito, Pirri, Camacho, Miguel, Del Bosque, Villar, Quini (Sostrustelli), Santillana, Rojo (Fortes).

USSR 4 Switzerland 1

RUSSIA GAINED their expected two points to ease themselves into the last eight of the European Championship.

Two up in 15 minutes through goals by Konkov and Onischenko, the Soviet side were pulled back just on the interval when Risi scored and although the Swiss improved considerably after the break forcing five corners, further goals by Onischenko (67 minutes) and Veremejev eight minutes from the end emphasised the superiority of the Dynamo Kiev dominated home side, playing in front of their own supporters.

USSR: Rudakov; Fomenko, Troschkin, Zwanguentsev, Lovchev, Konkov (Sacharow), Buriak, Muntian (Kolotovi, Onischenko, Veremejev, Blokhin.
Switzerland: Burgener; Trinchero, Bizzini, Guyot, Fischbach, Botteron, Kuhn, Schneeberger, Muller, Risi, Jeandupeux.

France 0 Belgium 0

HOPES OF the French of being able to cause an upset in this European Championship and allow the East Germans a forlorn chance of getting through were ruined by a competent Belgian side.

With the veteran Jean Dockx playing a stong game as sweeper in the visiting side the crowd of 45,000 at the Parc des Princes had little to enthuse about as far as their side was concerned.

Belgium did manage to get the ball in the net but referee Bob Davidson of Scotland disallowed the scorer Val Gool a goal because of clear hands.

France: Baratelli; Domenech, Tresor, Orlanducci, Bracci, Huck (Larque), Michel, Guillou, Rocheteau, Coste (Gallice), Emon.
Belgium: Piot; Van Binst, Vandendaale, Dockx, Leekens, Cools, Verheyen, Coeck, Van der Eychen, Van Gool, Lambert (Teugels).

West German Amateurs1 Luxembourg 0

IN VIEW of the forthcoming World Cup qualifying fixtures, this result may either prove to be of comfort or no solace to England in the future.

The German amateurs won with a goal by Seliger after 15 minutes of this friendly match in Ensdorf against a side composed of more than half the normal Luxembourg national side minus their exiled professionals.

Only a fine display in goal by the Luxembourg first choice Moes prevented a heavy defeat.

West Germany Amateurs: Muche; Schneider, E. Traser, Egon Schmitt, Weiler, Schaffer, Wilhelm, Eder, Seliger, Schlief (Mullner), (Buchel), Hammes.
Luxembourg: Moes; Gloden, Hansen, Flenghi, Margue, Zusang, Morel, Dresch, Michaux (Graff), Thielens, Langers.

Portugal 1 England 1

AN UNINSPIRED performance by England virtually gave the group to Czechoslovakia who only had to win in Cyprus to get into the quarter-finals of the European Championship.

Portugal opened the score from a free kick by Rodrigues after 14 minutes but England equalised four minutes before the break when Channon's shot from a free-kick situation was deflected off a defender.

Portugal lost Rodrigues injured after 50 minutes but England could apparently find no answer to the home team's off-side game and were themselves embarrassed by the ease that the Portuguese counter-attacked.

But for wretched finishing with Nene the chief culprit, the Portuguese would have won. Late substitutions of Thomas and Clarke did not manage to produce another England goal.

Portugal: Damas; Rebelo (Tai), Rodrigues (Carolino), Freitas, Artur, Toni, Alves, Octavio, Baptista, Nene, Moinhos.
England: Clemence; Whitworth, Beattie, Francis, Watson, Todd, Keegan, Channon, Macdonald (Clarke), Brooking, Madeley (Thomas).

Cyprus 0 Czechoslovakia 3

THE CZECHS duly qualified for the quarter-finals of the European Championship scoring three times in the opening half and easing up after the interval.

Cyprus had to field a rather less than normal side because of the calls of their Greek based players and were forced to field a couple of national service conscripts and a few

International Post-mortem by JACK ROLLIN

refugees from the war with the Turks still living in tents.

Nehoda opened the score after nine minutes, Bicovsky made it 2-0 after 26 minutes and Masny completed the scoring 10 minutes before the interval.

Cyprus: Aliviades; Fokkis, Stylianou, Pantzaras, Mertakkas, Michael, Savva, Marcou, Kaiafas, Papetsas, Kenaris.
Czechoslovalia: Viktor, Pivarnik, Jurkemik, Ondrus, Gogh, Moder, Bicovsky, Pollak, Masny, Svehlik, Nehoda.

Wales 1 Austria 0

WALES AT least gave Britain something to smile about in the European Championship by winning through in Group Two against the Austrians who had to win in Wrexham.

The only goal of the match came from the veteran Arfon Griffiths a sprightly 34 year old playing on his own ground in front of the mostly Third Division supporters of his club.

The match was an excellent culination of the work of manager Mike Smith since he took over the national side.

Wales: Lloyd; Thomas, Evans, Phillips, Jones, Griffiths, Mahoney, Yorath, Flynn, Smallman, James.
Austria: Koncilia; Sara, Winklbauer, Pezzey, Krieso (Strasser), Prohaska, Steiner, Eigmayer, Weiss (Sterning), Kranid, Jara.

Yugoslavia 1 Northern Ireland 0

DESPITE A heroic rearguard action by the Northern Ireland defence in Blegrade there was never any chance of the Irish either winning the game or scoring enough goals to cause an upset in Group Three.

Pat Jennings gave a remarkable exhibition of goalkeeping to keep the eager Yugoslav forwards at distance and he was beaten only once.

The only goal came after 25 minutes and gave the gallant Jennings no chance of saving. Vladic put Surjak through and his shot which hit the bar was crashed home on the rebound by Oblak.

Yugoslavia: Petrovic; Buljan, Katalinski, Muzinic, Hadziabdic, Oblak, Vukotic, Vladic, Jerkovic, Surjak, Dzaic.
N. Ireland: Jennings; Rice, Nicholl, Hunter, Scott, Hamilton, Jackson (Jamison), Clements, McIlroy, Morgan, Finney.

Italy 1 Holland 0

AFTER THEIR useful 0-0 draw against Poland, at least the Italians save some honour for themselves in beating the Dutch who still went through in Group Five.

Capello was the scorer after 20 minutes against Holland who were without their Spanish based stars Johan Cruyff and Johan Neeskens and were content to keep the ball in midfield playing out time.

Oblak of Yugoslavia

Italy had their basic team which did duty in Poland out again through the highly priced Beppo Savoldi was included at centre-forward. The crowd of 80,000 in Rome could at least say that Italy won.

Italy: Zoff; Gentile, Bellugi, Facetti, Rocca, Benetti, Capello, Antognoni, Causio, Savoldi, Pulici.

Holland: Schrijvers; Suurbier, Krijgh, Van Kraay, Krol, Peters, Jansen, Thissen, Rene Van der Kerkhof, Geels, Willy Van der Kerkhof (Nolten).

Turkey 1 USSR 0

KNOWING THAT they had already qualified for the European Championship knock-out stages, the Russians were not over-exerted in this match which merely completed the fixtures in Group Six.

Only goal of the match came from Cemil who gave the Turks victory in Izmir in the 21st minute.

Turkey: Rasim; Turgay, Fatih, Ismail, Sabahattin-F. Mehmet, (Hüseyin), Ali, Kadir-A. Kemal, Gokmen, Cemil.

Soviet Union: Rudakov; Konkov, Fomenko, Rosko, Zuev-Muntian, Burjak, Zujaginoev, Veremev, Onischenko, Kolotov, Blochin.

West Germany 1 Bulgaria 0

THE GOAL drought which has dried up the once free-scoring German machine since the retirement of Gerd Muller was broken just once in this game twenty minutes after the interval when Jupp Heynckes scored the vital goal which will probably put the Germans into the quarter-finals of the European Championship.

It was their sixth goal in five games and now they need only take a point from the remaining fixture with Malta to get through to a competition of which they are the current holders.

Franz Beckenbauer was making his 94th appearance for the national team. Christo Bonev the Bulgarian midfield player was appearing for the 78th time in his country's colours.

West Germany: Maier; Vogts, Beckenbauer, Dietz, Wimmer, Danner, Bonhof, Holzenbein, Beer, Heynckes.

Bulgaria: Filipov; Zafirov, Ivkov, Angelov, Vassilov, Kolev (Panov), Bonev, Rangelov, Alexandrov (Vasilov), Zvetkov, Milanov.

Results service

ARGENTINA: National Championship
(Two matches to play — Top two from each section go into final round)

Section A

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
River Plate	**14**	**10**	**1**	**3**	**36**	**16**	**21**
Huracan	14	9	1	4	30	18	19
Est. La Plata	14	7	5	2	22	17	19
Gim. Mendoza	14	6	4	4	20	15	16
All Boys	14	4	3	7	20	30	11
S. Mar. Tucuman	14	3	3	8	19	28	9
Velez Sarsfield	14	3	3	8	19	28	9
Cip. Rio Negro	14	2	3	9	17	29	7

Section B

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
San Lorenzo	**14**	**9**	**2**	**3**	**27**	**16**	**20**
Tucuman	14	8	3	3	24	21	19
Boca Juniors	14	8	0	6	33	20	16
Ar. Juniors	14	7	2	5	25	30	16
Ald. M. del Pl	14	5	2	7	20	26	12
Gim. La Plata	14	4	3	7	23	25	11
FC Oeste	14	4	3	7	19	21	11
J. AlS. Juan	14	4	0	10	17	34	8

Section C

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Rosario Central	**14**	**9**	**4**	**1**	**19**	**7**	**22**
Gimnasia Jujuy	14	7	5	2	18	10	19
Independiente	14	5	6	3	25	18	16
Union Santa Fe	14	5	5	4	22	17	15
Bel. Cordoba	14	5	3	6	21	23	13
Ch. Juniors	14	3	4	7	15	25	10
Newbury Junin	14	3	3	8	13	21	9
Banfield	14	2	2	10	18	29	6

Section D

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Colon Santa Fe	**14**	**8**	**3**	**3**	**28**	**19**	**19**
Temperley	14	8	3	3	27	19	19
Newell's O.B	14	8	3	3	24	10	19
Talleres Cordoba	14	7	4	3	29	23	18
Racing	14	7	3	4	33	23	17
Atlanta	14	6	1	7	26	31	13
Juv. A. Salta	14	1	6	7	13	21	8
B. Mitre Posadas	14	0	1	13	8	43	1

VENEZUELA: Professional League
(One match to go — Top 4 then play for title)

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Galicia	**27**	**12**	**10**	**5**	**37**	**28**	**34**
Estudiantes	27	13	7	7	37	21	33
Portuguesa	27	13	7	7	38	23	33
Portugues	26	10	6	10	36	34	26
Universitario	27	8	9	10	24	36	25
Valencia	26	7	10	9	24	27	24
Italia	27	5	12	10	34	40	22
San Cristobal	27	6	5	16	23	44	17

SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP
(Final)

October 17

COLOMBIA (1) 1 (Castro)
PERU (0) 0
(1st leg) Att: 60,000

October 22
PERU (2) 2 (Zarate o.g., Ramirez)
COLOMBIA (0) 0
(2nd leg) Att: 43,000
Referee: Silvagno (Chile)

Peru: Sartor, Soria, Melendez, Champitaz, Diaz, Quesada, Oyola, Reyna, Barbadillo (Ortiz), Ramirez, Oblitas.
Colombia: Zape, Segovia, Zarate, Escobar, Botillos, Usuriaga, Calero, Retat, Arbeleda (Diaz), Loaiciga, Castro (Angulo).

October 28
PERU (1) 1 (Scotti)
COLOMBIA (0) 0
(Play off at Caracas)

Jimmy Case of Liverpool, who scored all three of his team's goals against Slask Wroclaw of Poland in a UEFA Cup second leg match.

European Championship

GROUP ONE

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Czechoslovakia	6	4	1	1	15	5	9
England	6	3	2	1	11	3	8
Portugal	5	1	2	1	4	7	6
Cyprus	5	0	0	5	0	15	0

GROUP TWO

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Wales	6	5	0	1	14	4	10
Hungary	6	3	2	2	15	8	7
Austria	6	3	1	2	11	7	7
Luxembourg	6	0	0	6	7	28	0

GROUP THREE

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Yugoslavia	6	5	0	1	12	4	10
Northern Ireland	6	3	0	3	7	5	6
Sweden	6	3	0	3	8	8	6
Norway	6	1	0	5	5	15	2

GROUP FOUR

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Spain	6	3	3	0	10	6	9
Scotland	5	2	2	1	7	5	6
Rumania	5	1	4	0	10	5	6
Denmark	6	0	1	5	3	14	1

GROUP FIVE

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Holland	6	4	0	2	14	8	8
Poland	6	3	2	1	9	5	8
Italy	6	2	3	1	3	3	6
Finland	6	0	1	5	3	12	1

GROUP SIX

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
USSR	6	4	0	2	10	6	8
Eire	6	3	1	2	11	5	7
Turkey	6	2	2	2	5	10	6
Switzerland	6	1	1	4	5	10	3

GROUP SEVEN

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
Belgium	6	3	2	1	8	3	8
East Germany	6	2	3	1	8	7	7
France	6	1	3	2	7	6	5
Iceland	6	1	2	3	3	8	4

GROUP EIGHT

	p	w	d	l	f	a	pts
West Germany	5	2	3	0	6	4	7
Greece	6	2	3	1	12	9	7
Bulgaria	6	1	2	2	10	7	4
Malta	4	1	0	3	2	10	2

. . . UEFA Cup

UEFA CUP

Third round, first legs

AJAX, WITH some impressive results at home behind them, caught a cold against Levsky Spartak in Amsterdam.

It was CSKA Sofia who ended Ajax's triple-title run in the Champion's Cup, and Levsky must have fancied themselves to repeat that victory thanks to substitute Voinov's goal five minutes from time.

Barcelona also condemned themselves to an uncertain trip when they could only beat **Vasas Budapest** 3-1 in Nou Camp. Vasas manager Rudi Illovszky sounded pretty pessimistic before the match, but perhaps he didn't know that CFB are going through a sticky patch at the moment. Johan Cruyff, doubtful because of injury until just before the game, played all the same and was probably Barsa's best man.

Brugge and **Roma** fought a tremendous match in the mud in Belgium. Raoul Lambert (twice) and Rene van der Eycken came close in the first ten minutes, but it wasn't until just before half-time that van der Eycken, an outstanding performer in this season's competition, set up the only goal for Julien Cools. It was Roma's third consecutive 1-0 away defeat in the competition. Always they had done enough at home . . .

The Russians's double challenge came surprisingly badly unstuck. Perhaps both sides were tired at the end of the Russian season. Whatever the reason, this one night seemed to put an end to the hope of both **Moscow Torpedo** and **Spartak.** Torpedo, evidently tiring, conceded two goals in the last quarter of an hour to Hans-Jürgen Kreische's re-emerging **Dynamo Dresden,** and Spartak went under 4-0 to an impressive performance by **AC Milan** — their best since the Rivera takeover.

Inter Bratislava looked like having their work cut out holding on away to **Stal Mielec,** though the Poles are losing top striker Jan Domarski to France. But the other Poles of **Slask Wroclaw** were struck down on their own ice rink by **Liverpool** — though it was Roman Faber's own goal which started the trouble.

Most unpleasant scenes of the night came in the Volksparkstadion, where **Hamburg** beat **Porto** 2-0 thanks to a last-minute Volkert penalty, and the Portuguese had defender Gabriel sent off 18 minutes from the end. Also due to miss the second leg is HSV's Austrian midfielder, Buffy Ettmayer, who collected a second yellow card.

The last minute penalty awarded by Hungarian referee Lajos Smolai sparked violent protests from the Portuguese and the angry West German fans, incensed by the visiting players, wreacked their own revenge with bottles and beer cans.

Ajax 2 (Geels 33, Steffenhagen 76)
Levsky-Spartak 1 (Voinov 85)
HT: 1-0. Att: 25,000

CF Barcelona 3 (Miguel 16, Rexach 37, Neeskens 39)
Vasas 1 (Muller 26)
HT: 3-1. Att: 70,000

Brugge 1 (Cools 42)
Roma 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 37,000

Dynamo Dresden 3 (Riedel 30, 75, Kreische 89)
Torpedo Moscow 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 23,000

Hamburg SV 2 (Zaczyk 15, Volkert 89 pen)
Porto 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 37,500

Inter Bratislava 1 (Saljanek 89)
Stal Mielec 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 16,000

Slask Wroclaw 1 (Pawlowski 80)
Liverpool 2 (Faber og 60, Toshack 73)
HT: 0-0. Att: 45,000

Milan 4 (Calloni 20, 68, Bigon 48, Maldera 51)
Spartak Moscow 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 20,000

Second Legs

AJAX OUT — but surely no surprise? They literally paid the penalty for Volin Voinov's late goal in Amsterdam.

Pavel Panov was the Levsky hero, scoring both the goals and deftly putting away his spot kick after Austrian referee Paul Schiller had taken the match beyond the statutory 120 minutes into a penalty contest. At 4-3 on penalties Ajax second half substitute Helling put the ball over the bar, Yordanov made it 5-3 and there was no point in Ajax even attempting their last kick.

It was a missed penalty too which probably cost **Moscow Torpedo** their chance of a place in the last eight. Pertrenko missed from the spot after only four minutes against **Dynamo Dresden,** and though he scored a regular goal to help Torpedo narrow the aggregate by half-time, Heidler's late goal gave the East Germans security.

Moscow's other representatives went too. Playing in Sochi, **Spartak** found goals in the second half from Viktor Papayev and Yevgenie Lovchev, but **Milan** held out for a 4-2 overall win.

Ineligible

Not so happy for **Roma,** though. Before 40,000 in their Olympic stadium, they went under to **Brugge** a goal from Raoul Lambert in the rain. **CF Barcelona** claimed the night's other away victory — Johan Cruyff setting up an early goal for young Fortes in Budapest against **Vasas.** The Hungarians surged forward bravely after half-time, but Pedro Mora — deputising for the ineligible Pedro Artola in goal — was on one of his better days. His best save through was from an intended back pass by Hohan Neeskens.

But if CFB soon established themselves, **Stal Mielec left it late against** Inter Bratislava. There was just quarter of an hour to go when Ryszard Sekulski levelled the aggregate, and Jan Domarski made the winner for Karas with five minutes to go.

The scoring accolade of the night must go to **Liverpool's** Jimmy Case. Only called in late to deputise for Steve Heighway he scored a hat-trick in the fog against the other Poles of **Slask Wroclaw,** hit a post, had another shot kicked off the line, and brought two brilliant saves from Zygmunt Kalinowski.

The 17,886 attendance was Liverpool's lowest in 12 years of European competition.

Finally, **Porto,** missing four men suspended after their stormy first leg, went out on aggregate to **Hamburg,** who had Willie Reimann to thank for the first goal of the game.

Levsky-Spartak 2 (Panov 33, 67)
Ajax 1 (Geels 63)
HT: 1-0 Att: 60,000.
Levsky 5-3 on penalties, 3-3 on agg.

Liverpool 3 (Case 22, 29, 46)
Slask Wroclaw 0
HT: 2-0 Att: 17,886
Liverpool 5-1 on agg.

Moscow Spartak 2 (Papayev 61, Ovchev 84)
AC Milan 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 20,000. Milan 4-2 on agg.

Moscow Torpedo 3 (Dedtyaryov 17, 81, Petrenko 23)
Dynamo Dresden 1 (Heidler 70)
HT: 2-0. Att: 12,000.
Dresden 4-3 on agg.

Porto 2 (Julio 30, Cubillas 71)
Hamburg 1 (Reimann 28)
HT: 1-1. Att: 35,000.
Hamburg 3-2 on agg.

Roma 0
Brugge 1 (Lambert 58)
HT: 0-0. Att: 40,000.
Brugge 2-0 on agg.

Stal Mielec 2 (Sekulski 75, Karas 85)
Inter Bratislava 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 14,500.
Stal 2-1 on agg.

Vasas 0
CF Barcelona 1 (Fortes 15)
HT: 0-1. Att: 28,300
CF Barcelona 4-1 on agg.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zürich	13	9	3	1	28	12	21
Servette	14	8	4	2	29	10	20
Grasshoppers	14	9	2	3	28	17	20
Basel	14	7	4	3	32	20	18
Young Boys	14	6	6	2	21	11	18
St. Gallen	14	7	4	3	26	19	18
Lausanne	14	7	4	3	22	20	18
Neuchâtel Xamax	14	6	4	4	18	14	16
Chênois	14	4	5	5	20	20	13
Sion	14	2	7	5	21	29	11
Biel	14	2	3	9	11	27	7
Winterthur	14	3	1	10	13	33	7
Lugano	13	0	4	9	4	18	4
Chaux-de-Fonds	14	1	1	12	10	33	3

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GKS Tychy	15	9	3	3	22	17	21
Ruch Chorzow	14	8	4	2	22	12	20
Stal Mielec	15	6	6	3	23	13	18
Pogon Szczecin	15	8	1	6	24	17	17
Slask Wroclaw	15	7	3	5	21	17	17
Widzew Lodz	15	4	8	3	15	13	16
ROW Rybnik	15	6	4	5	15	16	16
Lech Poznan	15	6	3	6	24	25	15
Wisla Krakow	14	6	3	5	10	11	15
Gornik Zabrze	15	5	4	6	20	20	14
Polonia Bytom	15	5	4	6	14	16	14
Legia	15	5	3	7	25	31	13
Szombierki Bytom	15	5	2	8	19	22	12
Zaglebie Sosnowiec	15	4	2	9	18	25	10
LKS Lodz	15	2	6	7	13	21	10
Stal Rzeszow	15	3	4	8	10	19	10

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria WAC	18	9	7	2	38	11	25
SW Innsbruck	17	9	5	3	32	17	23
Rapid	18	9	4	5	24	15	22
Admira/Wacker	17	7	4	6	26	22	18
VOeEST Linz	18	5	8	5	22	22	18
Austria Salzburg	18	5	7	6	23	30	17
Sturm Graz	18	5	6	7	20	22	16
Austria Klagenfurt	18	4	6	8	14	29	14
Grazer AK	18	4	6	8	17	34	14
Linzer ASK	18	2	7	9	16	30	11

League review

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	Slovan	Kosice	Trinec	Slavia	Zilina	Brno	Jablonec	Dukla	Pilsen	Trnava	Bohemians	Trencin	Teplice	Inter	Lok. Kos	Ostrava
Slovan Bratislava	X	4-0	1-0			1-0		2-1	5-0	2-0		6-0	4-1			1-3
V.S.S. Kosice		X	4-1			4-0	1-0		4-2			3-0	4-1		2-0	6-1
Trinec			X	0-1	2-0		2-0	1-2		1-0	0-0			1-0	1-2	
Slavia Prague	1-0	1-0		X	6-2					5-0	1-1			2-0	4-1	
Z.V.L. Zilina	1-0	3-2			X	1-1		1-4	2-0			5-0	3-1			
Brno			2-0	0-0		X	2-1		2-0			8-0	1-1			1-1
L.I.A.Z. Jablowec	2-2			2-0	0-0		X	1-0		2-0	3-1			0-1	1-2	
Dukla Prague		3-2		2-3		1-1		X		1-1		4-0		1-0		3-1
Skoda Dilsen			3-1	3-1			1-0	1-0	X	1-1	3-2			2-0	3-0	
Spartak Trnava		3-0			2-0	0-0				X	2-0			2-0	5-0	
Bohemians Prague	1-1	1-2			1-0		3-0	2-1			X	3-3			5-0	2-1
Trencin			0-0	1-0			1-0		4-2	2-1		X	0-1	1-0		
US Teplice			1-0	3-2			3-0	3-2	6-1	2-0	0-0		X	0-1		
Inter Bratislava	2-0	4-2			3-0	1-0					1-0			X	0-0	0-0
Lokomotive Kosice	2-0		2-1		5-0	3-1		2-3					1-2		X	3-1
Banik Ostrava			1-0	2-0			1-1		0-0	0-2		3-0	3-1			X

HUNGARY (Re-start 9 March)

	Honved	Vasas	Csepel	Haladas	Kaposvar	Diosgyor	Zalaegerzeg	Raba Eto	Szeged	Tatabanya	Bekescsaba	MTK – VM	Salgotabjan	Ujpest	Ferencvaros	Videoton
Honved	X	3-1		3-1	1-0		1-0		2-0			5-1	5-2			3-1
Vasas		X	3-3	3-0		3-0	2-0				3-1			1-1		3-2
Csepel	0-0		X	2-0				2-0			1-1	1-0		1-1	2-3	
Haladas				X	2-2		1-1	1-0	5-1	1-0		3-1				1-0
Kaposvar		2-0	5-2		X	0-0				2-1	1-1			1-4		3-3
Diosgyor	4-0		1-1	1-1		X	2-0	0-0	1-0		1-0	1-0			0-0	
Zalaegerzeg			1-2		5-2		X	3-0	4-0	3-0	3-0					2-2
Raba Gto	1-1	2-0			1-1			X	6-1	0-1			1-3			0-2
Szeged		2-2	1-0		2-2				X	2-1		1-0			0-1	
Tatabanya	1-0	3-2	2-0			0-0				X	2-2	4-3		1-3	1-3	
Bekescsaba	1-1			0-2				1-1	1-0		X	0-3	0-1		1-0	
M.T.K. – V.M.		2-1			0-1		3-1	1-1				X	3-0	1-0	1-3	
Salgotarjan		3-1	1-1		2-2	1-0	5-2		1-1	5-2			X			1-3
Ujpest Dosza	1-1			3-2		7-2	3-0	3-1	2-1		2-1		2-1	X	1-4	
Ferencvaros	4-3	2-1		1-0		4-2	1-0	2-2					4-0		X	
Videoton			2-0			2-0			4-0	3-1	3-0	1-0		3-0	0-0	X

WEST GERMANY (Break until 17 Jan.)

	Hannover	Gladbach	Frankfurt	Karlsruhe	Hamburg	Schalke	Kaiserslautern	Offenbach	Bochum	Bremen	Duisberg	Dusseldorf	Hertha	Cologne	R.W. Essen	Bayer Verdingen	Beyern Munich	E. Brunswick
Hannover 96	X	3-3	3-2	2-0	1-0	1-1							2-6		0-0	3-1		
Bor. Munchen Glad'h		X		4-2			3-0	2-0	1-1	3-0	3-0	1-0					4-1	0-0
Eintracht Frankfurt		1-1	X	0-2		2-1	1-1		6-0		1-1		1-1			3-1	6-0	
Karlsruhe				X		2-2	3-5		2-2		2-2			3-1		1-0	1-2	0-2
S.V. Hamburg		0-0	4-2	3-0	X	4-1	2-0						2-1		4-1	0-0		
Schalke 04		2-2				X	2-2		1-1	4-2	5-1	2-0		3-1			2-2	5-1
Kaiserslautern	2-2						X	2-2	2-1	4-0	3-0	2-1					2-1	3-1
Kickers Offenbach	1-0		2-1	0-0	3-2	1-1		X					2-1		0-4	2-3		
V.F.L. Bochum	2-0				0-3			5-1	X	0-3		0-1			2-1		3-1	2-0
Werder Bremen	0-0		1-2	1-0	1-3			3-1		X		3-0	3-2	3-2	3-3			
M.S.V. Duisberg	4-3				1-1			6-2	1-1	2-0	X	2-2					1-1	1-0
Fortuna Dusseldorf	3-0		1-1	0-2	1-0			0-0				X	2-1	0-0	5-2	2-0		
Hertha Berlin		3-0		1-1		2-1	3-0		4-1		1-2		X	2-1		5-0	2-1	
Cologne	2-1	0-4	3-3		1-1		1-1	4-0	1-0		3-2			X	3-0			
Rot Weiss Essen		1-3	4-3	1-0		0-0	5-1				5-2		3-1		X	2-1		
Bayer Verdingen		1-1					2-2		0-0	2-1	0-4			1-1		X	2-1	0-0
Bayern Munich	3-1				1-0			3-1		4-0		5-0		1-2	5-1		X	1-1
Eintracht Brunswick	3-2		2-0		1-0			5-1		3-2		3-1	5-2	0-0	1-1			X

POLAND

	Gornik	Tychy	Legia	Polonia	L.K.S.	Widzew	Pogon	Lech	Szombierki	Ruch	Wisla	R.O.W.	Zagalbie	Stal Mielec	Slask	Stal Rzesow
Gornik Zabrze	X	0-0					1-0	4-2	4-1				3-1	1-1		0-2
G.K.S. Tychy		X	3-2	3-0	1-1	1-0			3-1		2-1	2-1				1-0
Legia Warsaw	1-3		X	2-0		1-1	4-1			1-1	1-2				4-0	
Polonia Bytom	4-3			X		1-1	1-0			0-1		0-0	3-0	1-0	0-1	
L.K.S. Lodz	0-0		2-4	1-1	X	1-2				0-1	2-0				1-1	
Widzew Lodz	0-0					X	0-2	1-1		1-1		3-1	3-0	1-0	0-0	
Pogow Szczecin		4-0			1-0		X	4-2	3-0				3-1	1-3		3-0
Lech Poznan		0-1	2-3	1-0	1-1			X	2-1		3-0	3-1				2-0
Szombierki Bytom			6-0	1-0	2-0	3-1			X	0-2	0-0	2-0			1-3	
Ruch Chorzow	3-0	3-2					1-1	1-1		X		0-1	2-1	2-1	1-2	
Wisla Krakow	1-0			0-1		0-0	0-1			0-0	X	2-0	1-0		1-0	
R.O.W. Rybnik	1-0		3-2		2-0		2-0					X	1-0		0-0	
Zagalbie Sosnowiec		1-2	0-0		3-2			3-0	2-0				X			3-1
Stal Mielec		0-0	6-0		2-2			3-1	2-1		1-1	1-1		X		1-0
Slask Wroclaw	3-1	3-1					2-0	2-3					4-2	0-1	X	0-1
Stal Rzeszow			1-0	2-2	0-1	1-1			0-0	1-3	0-1	1-1				X

SWITZERLAND (Close season until 7 March)

	Basle	Grasshoppers	Neuchatel	Chenois	Young Boys	Winterthur	Servette	Chaux de Fonds	Sion	Lausanne	St. Gallen	Biel	Zurich	Lugano
Basle	X	5-1		3-0			2-0		1-1	1-2			1-1	3-0
Grasshoppers	4-1	X	0-0		2-1	3-0	3-2				1-1	2-0		
Neuchatel Xamax	2-2		X	2-1		3-1		0-0	3-0			3-1	4-1	
Chenis		2-1	0-0	X		5-1		2-1		3-3		3-0		0-0
Young Boys	3-1		1-0	1-1	X	1-0		3-0			4-0	0-0		
Winterthur	2-3				2-4	X		3-1	0-3	2-1			0-2	0-0
Servette			4-0	3-1	0-0	3-1	X	4-0			3-0	1-0		
La Chaux De Fonds	1-2	2-5					0-3	X	2-3	1-2			0-2	1-0
Sion		1-2		2-2	2-2		1-1		X	0-2			2-3	2-2
Lausanne		1-3	1-0		0-0		2-2		1-1	X	2-0	3-2		
St. Gallen	2-2		1-0	1-0		4-0		2-1	7-2		X	3-0		
Biel (Bienne)	1-5					0-1		2-0	1-1		2-2	X	1-3	1-0
Zurich		1-0		2-0	3-1		0-0			5-1	1-1		X	4-1
Lugano		0-1	0-1		0-0		0-2			0-1	1-2			X

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	8	6	1	1	14	7	13
Juventus	8	5	2	1	15	10	12
Torino	8	4	3	1	12	5	11
Milan	8	3	3	2	8	4	9
Bologna	8	2	5	1	7	6	9
Cesena	8	2	5	1	8	7	9
Inter	8	3	2	3	8	8	8
Perugia	8	3	2	3	7	8	8
Sampdoria	8	3	2	3	6	8	8
Ascoli	8	2	4	2	4	7	8
Roma	8	1	5	2	5	7	7
Fiorentina	8	2	2	4	9	10	6
Como	8	1	4	3	6	7	6
Verona	8	3	0	5	9	13	6
Lazio	8	1	3	4	5	10	5
Cagliari	8	0	3	5	4	10	3

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	11	8	2	1	38	9	18
Beavista	11	7	4	0	22	9	18
Sporting	10	7	2	1	18	6	16
Belenenses	11	7	2	2	19	11	16
Porto	11	5	3	3	27	12	13
Estoril Praia	11	6	1	4	15	16	13
Vit. Guimaraes	11	4	4	3	20	11	12
Braga	11	3	5	3	11	14	11
CUF Barreiro	11	3	4	4	6	11	10
Vit. Setubal	11	3	3	5	13	13	9
Atletico	11	4	0	7	11	22	8
Farense	10	3	1	6	14	18	7
Tomar	11	2	3	6	13	26	7
Leixoes	11	2	3	6	12	32	7
Academico	11	2	2	7	11	23	6
Beira-Mar	11	0	3	8	5	22	3

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mönchengladbach	17	9	7	1	35	15	25
Eintr. Braunschweig	17	8	5	4	28	21	21
Hamburger SV	17	8	4	5	29	15	20
Kaiserslautern	17	7	6	4	32	30	20
Hertha BSC	17	8	2	7	38	27	18
Schalke 04	17	5	8	4	35	27	18
Cologne	17	6	6	5	26	25	18
Rot-Weiss Essen	17	7	4	6	34	34	18
MSV Duisburg	17	6	6	5	32	33	18
Bayern	17	7	3	7	33	29	17
Eintr. Frankfurt	17	5	6	6	35	28	16
Fortuna Düsseldorf	17	6	4	7	19	24	16
VfL Bochum	17	5	5	7	21	28	15
Werder Bremen	17	6	2	9	26	35	14
Bayern Uerdingen	17	4	6	7	17	30	14
Karlsruher SC	17	4	5	8	21	28	13
Hannover 96	17	4	5	8	24	33	13
Kickers Offenbach	17	4	4	9	19	42	12

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ferencvaros	15	11	3	1	32	13	25
Ujpest Dozsa	15	10	2	3	33	20	22
Videoton	15	9	3	3	31	14	21
Honved	15	8	4	3	29	18	20
Haladas	15	7	3	5	22	19	17
Diosgyör	15	5	6	4	13	16	16
Salgotarjan	15	6	3	6	27	29	15
Rakoczi	15	4	7	4	26	28	15
Csepel	15	4	6	5	18	21	14
Zalaegerszeg	15	5	2	8	26	24	12
Vasas	15	5	2	8	25	26	12
Tatabanya	15	5	2	8	19	29	12
MTK/VM	15	5	1	9	19	23	11
Raba ETO Györ	15	2	6	7	16	22	10
Bekescsaba	15	2	5	8	10	24	9
Szeged EOL	15	3	3	9	12	32	9

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK Athens	8	6	2	0	17	3	14
Panathinaikos	8	5	1	2	19	10	11
Olympiakos	8	4	3	1	14	9	11
PAOK	7	4	2	1	11	4	10
Iannina	8	4	2	2	9	7	10
Aris	7	3	3	1	10	5	9
Ethnikos	8	3	3	2	13	8	9
Iraklis	8	3	3	2	7	6	9
Atromitos	8	2	4	2	5	7	8
Pierikos	8	1	4	3	3	6	6
Panachaiki	8	1	4	3	8	12	6
Apollon	7	1	3	3	6	11	5
Panionikos	5	1	2	2	3	4	4
Panseraikos	8	0	4	4	4	11	4
Panionios	8	1	1	6	4	15	3
Kastoria	8	0	3	5	5	20	3

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Akademik	13	7	3	3	17	11	17
CSKA	12	6	4	2	18	11	16
Levsky/Spartak	12	6	4	2	18	14	16
Sliven	13	7	1	5	15	10	15
Lok. Sofia	13	5	4	4	16	14	14
Thrakia	13	4	6	3	13	12	14
Slavia	12	3	7	2	19	14	13
Pirin	13	4	5	4	12	11	13
Dunav Russe	13	4	5	4	17	16	13
Lok. Plovdiv	13	4	5	4	15	17	13
Botev	13	6	1	6	16	19	13
ESK Spartak	13	5	2	6	15	15	12
Beroe	13	2	8	3	14	15	12
Minjor Pernik	13	3	4	6	10	18	10
Tscherno more	12	1	6	5	10	17	8
Spartak Pleven	13	2	1	10	17	28	5

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	17	10	5	2	28	13	25
Red Star	17	10	4	3	34	13	24
Hajduk	17	9	5	3	25	11	23
Dinamo	17	9	4	4	18	9	22
Velez	17	7	6	4	20	14	20
Vojvodina	17	6	7	4	19	16	19
Borac	17	6	6	5	21	20	18
Olimpija	17	6	5	6	22	20	17
Celik	17	5	7	5	12	11	17
OFK Belgrad	17	7	3	7	20	27	17
Rijeka	17	5	5	7	16	20	15
Budocnost	17	6	3	8	13	20	15
Zeljeznicar	17	5	4	8	16	25	14
Sarajevo	17	5	3	9	22	28	13
Radnicki Nis	17	2	9	6	10	18	13
Radnicki Krag	17	5	2	10	15	27	12
Sloboda	17	3	5	9	15	23	11
Vardar	17	3	5	9	10	21	11

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fenerbahce	10	5	5	0	15	4	15
Altay Izmir	10	4	5	1	16	10	13
Trabzonspor	10	5	3	2	11	7	13
Adana Demirspor	10	5	1	4	11	10	11
Balikesirspor	10	4	3	3	5	8	11
Göztepe Izmir	10	3	4	3	13	9	10
Boluspor	10	4	2	4	11	9	10
Galatasaray	10	2	6	2	8	7	10
Bursaspor	10	4	2	4	11	11	10
Orduspor	10	3	4	3	7	9	10
Giresunspor	10	2	5	3	8	8	9
Adanaspor	10	2	5	3	7	9	9
Zonguldakspor	10	2	4	4	8	10	8
Ankaragücü	10	4	0	6	11	19	8
Besiktas	10	2	3	5	9	13	7
Eskisehirspor	10	1	4	5	8	16	6

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	12	7	5	0	23	9	19
Atletico Madrid	12	7	2	3	25	15	16
Hercules Alicante	12	7	2	3	17	15	16
Barcelona	12	6	3	3	21	14	15
Athletic Bilbao	11	5	4	2	18	11	14
Racing Santander	12	5	3	4	17	17	13
Salamanca	12	5	3	4	13	13	13
Real Betis	12	5	3	4	13	14	13
Granada	12	4	5	3	14	16	13
Espafiol Barcelona	11	6	0	5	14	16	12
Valencia	12	5	2	5	14	13	12
Real Sociedad	12	4	4	4	14	16	12
Sevilla	12	4	3	5	14	17	11
Elche	12	3	3	6	16	18	9
Sporting Gijon	12	2	3	7	15	17	7
Real Zaragoza	12	3	1	8	16	22	7
Oviedo	12	2	2	8	9	17	6
Las Palmas	12	2	2	8	11	24	6

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax Amersterdam	13	9	3	1	36	16	21
PSV Eindhoven	13	8	3	2	40	14	19
Feyenoord	13	8	3	2	32	17	19
Twente Enschede	13	8	2	3	26	11	18
NEC Nijmegen	13	4	7	2	21	18	15
AZ'67 Alkmaar	13	5	4	4	20	17	14
Roda JC Kerkrade	13	5	4	4	17	16	14
Sparta Rotterdam	13	3	8	2	16	15	14
Den Haag	13	5	3	5	24	21	13
Telstar Velsen	13	3	6	4	24	23	12
MVV Maastricht	13	4	4	5	17	23	12
EEV Eindhoven	13	4	4	5	17	26	12
NAC Breda	13	3	5	5	9	18	11
Amsterdam	13	3	4	6	16	21	10
De Graafschap Döt.	13	2	5	6	20	38	9
Go Ahead Deventer	13	1	6	6	15	25	8
Utrecht	13	2	3	8	17	31	7
Excelsior Rotterdam	13	2	2	9	8	25	6

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bruges	15	10	3	2	32	14	23
Lokeren	16	9	2	5	32	19	20
Molenbeek	15	8	4	3	27	15	20
Anderlecht	15	8	4	3	27	17	20
Beveren-Waas	16	7	6	3	19	6	20
SV Waregem	15	7	6	2	22	12	20
Standard	15	7	5	3	22	16	19
Lierse SK	15	7	3	5	29	20	17
Antwerp	16	6	5	5	20	24	17
Beerschot	15	5	5	5	22	25	15
CS Bruges	15	4	7	4	21	18	15
Liege	15	4	4	7	22	34	12
La Louviere	15	2	8	5	15	20	12
FC Mechelen	15	2	7	6	17	22	11
Ostende	15	2	7	6	14	20	11
Racg. Mechelen	15	4	2	9	9	25	10
Beringen	15	4	2	9	11	29	10
SC Charleroi	15	2	4	9	16	24	8
Berchem	15	1	6	8	9	26	8

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan	15	8	2	5	29	14	18
VSS Kosice	15	9	0	6	36	24	18
Slavia	15	8	2	5	27	17	18
Dukla	15	7	2	6	28	21	16
Teplice	15	7	2	6	25	23	16
Inter	15	7	2	6	13	11	16
Pizen	15	7	2	6	22	28	16
Bohemians	15	5	5	5	22	18	15
Trnava	15	6	3	6	19	16	15
Lok. Kosice	15	7	1	7	23	29	15
Brno	15	4	6	5	19	17	14
Ostrava	15	5	4	6	18	22	14
Zilina	15	6	2	7	20	27	14
Trencin	15	6	2	7	14	37	14
Jablonec	15	4	3	8	13	17	11
Trinec	15	4	2	9	10	17	10

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Bonus Pts	Pts
Nice	18	9	6	3	38	20	4	28
St-Etienne	18	9	7	2	30	17	2	27
Metz	18	9	3	6	35	29	4	25
Sochaux	18	8	5	5	27	26	2	23
Bordeaux	18	7	7	4	30	25	1	22
Marseille	18	11	0	7	31	29	0	22
Lille	18	7	6	5	33	31	2	22
Lyon	18	8	3	7	30	27	2	21
Bastia	18	6	6	6	27	27	3	21
Reims	18	6	5	7	34	27	3	20
Nantes	18	4	9	5	33	28	3	20
Nimes	18	8	3	7	22	21	1	20
Lens	18	6	6	6	32	34	2	20
Nancy	18	5	7	6	24	29	2	19
St-Germain	18	6	5	7	33	31	1	18
Valenciennes	18	5	5	8	19	24	1	16
Troyes	18	3	8	7	26	30	1	15
Strasbourg	18	4	6	8	17	25	1	15
Monaco	18	4	5	9	22	37	0	13
Avignon	18	3	2	13	17	43	0	8

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	14	9	2	3	30	16	20
Motherwell	15	7	6	2	29	20	20
Hibernian	14	7	4	3	23	17	18
Rangers	15	7	3	5	23	16	17
Hearts	15	5	6	4	18	19	16
Ayr United	15	6	3	6	22	25	15
Dundee	15	5	4	6	23	29	14
Aberdeen	15	5	3	7	19	22	13
Dundee United	15	4	3	8	20	25	11
St. Johnstone	15	2	0	13	17	35	4

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Queen's Park R.	20	9	9	2	28	13	27
Derby	20	11	5	4	30	25	27
Leeds	19	11	4	4	35	20	26
Manchester U	20	11	4	5	30	19	26
Liverpool	20	9	8	3	29	19	26
West Ham	19	11	4	4	30	21	26
Manchester C	20	8	8	4	32	17	24
Stoke	20	9	5	6	26	22	23
Middlesbrough	20	7	6	7	20	18	20
Everton	19	7	6	6	30	34	20
Newcastle	20	8	3	9	37	30	19
Tottenham	19	5	9	5	27	27	19
Ipswich	20	5	9	6	20	20	19
Aston Villa	20	6	7	7	24	28	19
Coventry	20	6	7	7	20	26	19
Norwich	20	7	4	9	28	31	18
Leicester	20	3	12	5	22	28	18
Arsenal	20	5	6	9	25	27	16
Birmingham	20	5	3	12	27	40	13
Wolverhampton	20	4	5	11	22	33	13
Burnley	20	3	7	10	20	33	13
Sheffield U	20	1	3	16	13	44	5

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WANTED: Will pay cash for old sets of football cards (including sweet cigarette cards), also for any football annuals in good condition pre 1968. Write first with details to: Henderson, 2 Clarkston Drive, Airdrie, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

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